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Kinnock backs Prime Minister in condemning violence

Thatcher hits at Militant over poll tax

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Wood

The Prime Minister and Mr Neil Kinnock were yesterday united in condemnation of the wave of violent protests against the community charge, as political acrimony over the tax deepened.

Mrs Thatcher said that any violence or intimidatory demonstrations — "organized, I understand from an excellent article in *The Times*, by the militant left" — were a negation of democracy.

The Labour leader said he agreed with everything she had said, "as I have long made clear", and again repudiated calls backed by some far-left Labour MPs for non-payment of the tax.

But within hours of the two leaders' Question Time exchanges, town hall violence had erupted again with egg-throwing protesters storming police lines in Swindon, and demonstrators elsewhere disrupting council meetings. At Iswyn Borough Council in Mr Kinnock's constituency, 10 Plaid Cymru councillors said they would not pay the charge

to support those in the area who could not afford it.

In spite of Mr Kinnock's longstanding efforts to root Militant out of his party, Conservatives privately believe the violence is deflecting attention from the Government's difficulties over the charge.

They were given further ammunition last night when Mr Tony Benn said Britain

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was witnessing the first major civil disobedience campaign since the Suffragettes, and called on the Labour movement to defend all those who refused to pay the poll tax and to pledge itself to an amnesty to lift the penalties which might be imposed upon them.

Mr Benn, speaking in Barking, said that non-violent civil disobedience had a long history in the politics of Britain and other countries. "There is no moral obligation to obey an unjust law, but those who decide to defy such laws, on moral grounds, must expect to be punished, believing that their sacrifice may help others later, when the judgment of history confirms their stand."

The Conservative tactics were plainly on view in the Mid Staffordshire by-election campaign as Mr David Hunt, Minister for Local Government, challenged Mr Kinnock to hold a public inquiry into alleged links with Militant.

"Mr Kinnock has this week called for a public inquiry into one of his and the Labour Party's paymasters, Mr Scargill. I think it's about time he called for a public inquiry into the links between Militant and the Labour party", adding that "confusion, deception, irresponsibility, and illegality" were the hallmarks of Labour's opposition to the charge.

"The militants behind the disgraceful town hall thuggery

we have witnessed this week are not all banished exiles from the Labour party," he said. "Around 30 of the most ardent supporters of the Anti-Poll Tax Federation, which is organizing these demonstrations, sit behind Mr Kinnock in the House of Commons. These 30 law-breaking Labour MPs have all signed a declaration in support of the federation and pledging not to pay their community charge."

As the war of words continued, Dr John Cunningham, Labour's campaigns co-ordinator, pointed to the community charges set by Conservative councils in the constituencies of 13 ministers.

Responding to claims by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative chairman, that a pattern was emerging with Labour as the party of high spending, Dr Cunningham said that Barnet Council in Mrs Thatcher's constituency had overshot the government target by £23; Mole Valley Council in Mr Baker's seat by £85; Tandridge Council in Sir Geoffrey Howe's constituency £79; and Suffolk Coastal Council in Mr John Gummer's seat by £103.

Mr Baker said the difference between the average charge in Labour-controlled London boroughs (£403) and those run by the Conservatives (£291) was staggering.

In the Commons, Mrs Thatcher said the violent scenes at the town halls were precisely the same kind as those seen at Grunwick, in the coal strike and at Wapping.

She later faced a 100-strong demonstration against the charge as she arrived to give a speech in Glasgow at the start of a three-day tour of Scotland. The protest was led by Mr Tommy Sheridan, the militant leader of the Anti-Poll Tax Federation, who said: "Thatcher is not wanted in Glasgow. Her poll tax is particularly hated in a city where over 42 per cent are refusing to pay."

The Prime Minister ignored the protest as her car sped past on its way to the Forum Hotel.



Hi-tech agitation: Mr Andy Clachers, vice-chairman of the Lothian Anti-Poll Tax Federation, alerts his "scumbusters".

How activists use the hotlines to mobilize armies of protest

By Kerry Gill and Ray Clancy

A new generation of anti-poll tax shock troops, armed with mobile phones, CB radio sets, and fleets of cars and coaches is poised to move into England as poll-tax agitation intensifies.

The so-called "scumbusters", already a familiar feature of the Scottish anti-poll tax campaign, are training agitators south of the border in their hi-tech tactics. Police are being warned that their confrontational approach could lead to increased violence, intimidation and civil unrest.

With Militant Tendency, anarchists and other left-wing groups determined to exploit protests over the introduction

The Civil and Public Services Association last night expelled eight Militant supporters after an inquiry into allegations that they used the union's printing equipment and Newcastle upon Tyne offices for political purposes. The executive is to question Mr John Macreadie, deputy general secretary, also a Militant supporter.

of the poll tax, the new tactics imported from Scotland threaten to spark a further round of violent clashes.

Thousands of federation groups in England have modelled themselves on the Scottish committees, which are sending activists on lecture tours giving advice on their latest tactics.

Activists at English anti-

poll tax meetings are already using loudspeakers to incite the crowds as well as "rumpers" — members whose job it is to patrol the fringes of a demonstration gathering up people inclined to disband.

One of the "scumbusters", Tam McLean, an unemployed bus driver, spent yesterday in the shabby surroundings of Edinburgh Trades Council manning a newly installed hotline. He and his colleagues in Scotland, where the tax was introduced a year ago, aim to block any action taken to recover unpaid debts.

Yesterday it was his turn to alert 200 or so shock troops of any imminent attempt by sheriff officers to carry out a poinding — the process by which a debtor's goods are assessed for sale to meet the

outstanding bill. Their aim, in Scotland and England and Wales, is to make the poll tax unenforceable.

Militants hope that a widespread campaign of non-payment will split the Labour Party, spark violence and bring about the downfall of the Government.

In the process, lessons of co-ordination and communication learnt during the miners' strike and the Wapping dispute are given a new edge with sophisticated modern communications equipment.

The battalions of demonstrators are backed up with CB sets and a fleet of cars that enable them to rush to an address and force sheriff officers back from the doorstep.

When the poll-tax bills are Continued on page 20, col 4

Tories demand action on Fayed's

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs last night registered their strong disapproval of the Government's decision to take no action against the Fayed brothers over the takeover of Harrods.

As the Prime Minister refused repeatedly to become involved in the controversy over the £615 million takeover, senior backbench MPs at a private meeting demanded action against the Fayed brothers.

At the weekly meeting of the 1922 Conservative backbench committee, several leading MPs called for tough measures against the Fayed.

Among those expressing deep disquiet at the Government's position were Sir Peter Tapsell, a senior Conservative with strong links in the City, Sir William Clark, chairman

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of the Conservative backbench Treasury committee, Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark and Mr Hugh Dykes.

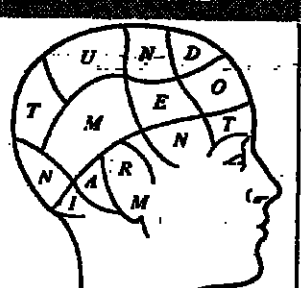
Their intervention increases the pressure on Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, about whom dissatisfaction is growing among Conservatives at Westminster.

Mr Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, said the brothers could not be allowed to get away with it and called for them to be stripped of their directorships.

Earlier, the Government came under strong pressure from MPs on both sides of the House for a debate on the report, with Labour condemning ministers for their failure to act against the "proven liars" now running the House

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INSIDE



TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● Round Four of *The Times* Tournament of the Mind, with questions devised and marked by Mensa, is on page 10. The first four rounds and the rules will be repeated tomorrow

● This year's Geneva Motor Show has gone green. Our Motoring Correspondent reports on the environmentally friendly cars of the future. See pages 30 and 31

● Once again, there were no valid Portfolio Platinum claims yesterday, so today's prize accumulates to £8,000. Today's chance to win is on page 29

Market rises

The London stock market rose by almost 20 points to close at 2250.0 yesterday as the CBI distributive trades survey confirmed that the Government's high interest rate policy was containing consumer spending. Page 21

Patten's stand

Environment ministers from eight countries failed yesterday to persuade Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, to rule out future nuclear waste disposal under the seabed. Page 20

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Nazis may be tried within two years

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Suspected Nazi war criminals living in Britain could be prosecuted in British courts within two years as a result of legislation introduced by the Government yesterday.

A special investigative squad, probably based at Scotland Yard, will be set up to mount what is expected to be one of the most expensive and complex criminal inquiries conducted in Britain.

However, with the Bill likely to face stiff opposition from some MPs and peers, ministers have decided that the unit should not start work until legislation is on the statute book.

Introducing the Bill in the Commons, Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, indicated that any trials were likely to use of unprecedented court procedures, including the taking of evidence from witnesses in other countries

Caring PC gets the public vote

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Correspondent

Police support a tough, combative role while the public wants to see policing based on the caring community officer, according to polls taken for a survey commissioned by the police.

The survey gives a warning that traditional policing, based on patrolling constables working closely with their areas, is imperilled by the drive for greater efficiency and value for money.

The 300-page *Operational Policing Review* was commissioned by the three staff associations representing all ranks of the police in England and Wales. Yesterday their leaders acknowledged that they may have to rethink police strategy, given the message from the public.

Full report, page 5
Leading article, page 13

Jaruzelski rebuffs Bonn on borders

From Ian Murray, Bonn, and Michael Binyon, Brussels

President Jaruzelski of Poland last night rejected Bonn's attempt at reassurance on its future borders with a united Germany.

After the Bundestag passed a resolution reassuring the Polish people of their right to live within secure borders, Mr Jaruzelski said it was "not fully satisfactory".

The Polish leader said it did not specify the borders to which it was referring, omitted reference to Poland's existing border treaties with East and West Germany and referred to German "legal positions" based on the 1937 borders of the Third Reich.

During a stormy debate on the resolution in the Bundestag, Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, was accused of lying and stabbing his Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in the back. The resolution was the first concrete step towards an internationally binding treaty guaranteeing the present borders.

The Social Democrats and Greens tried unsuccessfully to delete any reference in the full text of the motion to war reparations or the cultural rights of ethnic Germans in Poland. Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD leader, said Herr Kohl's behaviour in linking these subjects with the border question had damaged the Chancellor's office as never before.

In Brussels, the Chancellor reassured his Nato allies that Germany would consult constantly with friends and partners. Germany was not going to go it alone, he said.

On Wednesday, Dr Castro replied with his most bitter lament on the heretical path he believes the East Bloc has embarked on. "The Socialist bloc has really disappeared," he said. "The Soviet Union has not disintegrated and we hope that it will not. No civil war has emerged yet in the Soviet Union and we expect that it will not. But the dangers exist and are real." The moves away from communism were "repugnant," he said. Cuba's allies would be responsible for the bloodshed if the United States invades the island.

Dr Castro reserved his greatest wrath for the betrayal that the states of television news, broadcast a similar report, ridiculing Dr Castro as the self-appointed guardian of orthodoxy.

Continued on page 20, col 4

Moscow and Cuba swap camaraderie for insults

From Charles Bremner
New York

Moscow and Havana have cast aspersions to the winds this week and gone public with the estrangement that has left President Castro alone and unwanted as the only unrepentant Stalinist among the Kremlin's old allies.

The rout of Cuba's Sandinista protégés in Nicaragua's elections last month has prompted both Dr Castro and the Russians to take off the gloves after months in which Moscow has silently submitted to a stream of indirect gibes from Havana for its reformist path.

Twice this week — on Soviet state television and in the pages of *Moscow News* — Dr Castro has been subjected to sarcastic scorn as a rigid, backward,

communist ruler who faces mounting opposition from his subjects.

Moscow News depicted Cuba as an impoverished police state where that was still imitating the Brezhnev style of communism. "Cuban women are in no danger of replacing revolutionary consciousness with mercenary spirit as

Robert Kilroy-Silk..... 12

long as they are allowed a choice of one bra or two pairs of underwear (but not both and only the size available at the moment)," it said.

On Tuesday, *Vremya*, the evening

television news, broadcast a similar report, ridiculing Dr Castro as the self-appointed guardian of orthodoxy.

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A romantic offer for lovers of luxury



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NEWS ROUNDUP

Aids cases rise to more than 3,000

More than 3,000 people in Britain have developed Aids, including 101 new cases last month, the Department of Health said yesterday (Thomson Prentice writes).

At the end of February there were 3,021 cases, of whom 1,717 had died. Fifty-seven people died of Aids last month. The total number of cases comprises 2,898 males and 123 females, and includes 23 children.

An editorial in today's issue of *The Lancet*, the medical journal, says: "Control of the Aids epidemic depends overwhelmingly on reducing the risk of transmission by modifying behaviour."

It supports the national system of anonymous testing of blood samples for antibodies to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), introduced in January, but says that delays in launching the scheme have seriously damaged the control of the disease.

Another editorial in *Aids Newsletter*, published by the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases, says the fact of heterosexual transmission of HIV is incontrovertible.

Heysel appeals set

Fourteen Liverpool football supporters convicted by a Belgian judge after the Heysel stadium disaster have been summoned to appear again before the court in Brussels on Monday for an appeal hearing (Ronald Faux writes).

The court will hear an appeal against conviction by seven men, and the Belgian prosecutor has entered a counter appeal seeking stiffer sentences. Civil liability and claims for damages by Italian casualties and the families of the 39 who died will also be examined. Ten defendants who were acquitted are seeking damages for wrongful arrest.

BR 'losing £825m'

Persistent poor quality of service costs British Rail up to £825 million a year in lost and threatened revenue, according to an internal report compiled by a team of British Rail managers (Michael Dwyer writes). A copy of the report, inadvertently left on a train by a manager, is the first to provide an overall estimate of the possible cost of poor standards of service, which are currently thought to be about one fifth of British Rail's £4 billion turnover.

SLD poll director

Mr Des Wilson, the campaigner for good causes, has been appointed by Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrat party, to direct the party's general election campaign (Nigel Williamson writes). Mr Ashdown said at Westminster yesterday that he had appointed Mr Wilson, whose campaigns have included Shelter, the Freedom of Information campaign and Friends of the Earth, for his "professionalism and flair".

Writer threatens show

Dr Maya Angelou, the American author and actress, is considering legal action against the producers of the West End musical *King* after changes to the script (Simon Tait writes). The musical, based on the life of Martin Luther King, the assassinated civil rights leader, is due to open on April 11 at the Piccadilly theatre. Last night, Mr Peter Wilson, producer of the £2.5 million show, said it would go ahead.

Food panel to meet

The Government moved last night to improve its relations with consumer organizations and to disarm criticism of its Food Safety Bill voiced during a second reading debate in the Commons (Michael Hornsby writes). Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced a series of periodic meetings with leaders of 15 consumer groups "to consider a wide range of complex policy issues", starting next month. Parliament, page 9

Funding the miners' strike

NUM still owes unions £500,000

By Tim Jones and Peter Davenport

The National Union of Mineworkers still owes more than £500,000 to other unions which helped to sustain its year long strike.

Senior union sources disclosed this estimate yesterday as Mr Arthur Scargill, president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, prepare to today to defend themselves against allegations they used Libyan money meant to relieve hardship among their members for personal gain.

Both men have vigorously denied the allegations and will learn today whether the 15-strong executive committee of the union is prepared to back them in mounting libel actions against the *Daily Mirror* newspaper and Central Television's *Cook Report*.

Last night, Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, condemned the "trial by media" which, he said, was contrary to natural justice.

"In common with many others I am proud of the assistance the TGWU gave to relieve hardship among striking miners and their families in the course of that dispute," he said. "The present media campaign should not be allowed to cast a shadow over that solidarity."

During the dispute, the transport union gave loans estimated at £2 million to the NUM and is still owed at least £200,000.

Mr Todd and other senior officials of the union are not pressing the areas for the immediate return of the money as they acknowledge

that since the strike ended the union's membership, had declined dramatically in some regions.

Some members of the TGWU may question Mr Todd's patience as the union, in common with the NUM, is facing a worsening financial situation. In the year up to last September, the TGWU's deficit was in excess of £2 million.

Yesterday, the *Daily Mirror* reported that £200,000 lent to the NUM by the Fire Brigades Union had been carried in a cardboard box through a crowded London street before being delivered by car to an NUM flat in the Barbican.

The money, it is understood, has since been paid back.

The support of executive members within his Yorkshire headquarters means it is unlikely Mr Scargill will have the necessary two-thirds vote against him today which would be required for his suspension.

However, the Yorkshire leaders will still want Mr Scargill to answer in detail the allegations concerning funding from Libya and the Soviet Union.

The executive is likely to be more narrowly split when it comes to the question of whether to support him and Mr Heathfield in any libel actions. South Wales and Scottish delegate members will argue that the union has not been implicated.

Mr Kevin Barron, MP, Labour's spokesman on the coal industry, has already called for a full investigation into union accounts.

Police worried by manual on sabotaging riot tactics

Anarchists exploit poll tax tension

By Jamie Dettmer

Hardline anarchist groups involved in some of the most violent industrial disputes of the 1980s are planning to exploit anti-poll tax demonstrations scheduled to take place outside town halls in London, according to police.

An anarchist manual produced during the print dispute in Wapping, east London, in 1986 detailing ways of sabotaging police riot tactics is circulating among activists in the capital.

The 32-page manual, *Without a Trace*, provides advice on evading police forensic methods and lists radio call signs and codes used by Metropolitan Police districts and territorial support groups. The codes are useful in working out police tactics during a disturbance.

The manual, which was originally linked by the Spe-

cial Branch with the Hurricane anarchist group but was circulated widely to several violent punk anarchist sects operating in London, details how forensic scientists use blood, glass, textile and dust traces to provide evidence of an activist's role in a riot.

The resurfacing of the manual comes in the wake of reports in Scotland that the Militant-dominated Anti-Poll Tax Federation is planning to use mobile squads of activists with CB radios to organize "flying pickets".

A Scotland Yard source said: "The signs are that Trotskyite and anarchist groups are bringing into play all the technical paraphernalia and tactics we saw deployed at Wapping and during the miners' strike."

The reappearance of hardline anarchist groups is particularly disturbing for the

police. They were prominent in some of the worst scenes of violence at Wapping.

The groups involved in 1986 included: Class War, which organized the "Bash the Rich" marches in Hampstead and Notting Hill; Flame-thrower; Crowbar; and the Direct Action Movement.

Police at the Wapping dispute and at the Broadwater Farm riot were convinced that their radio messages were being monitored by anarchists.

Anarchist groups have been identified at recent anti-poll tax demonstrations at Southampton and Reading.

Police fear that the anarchists will heighten the violence already seen at anti-poll tax demonstrations this

week. Yesterday further evidence emerged of the extent of Militant's domination of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

It is clear that many of the most active local anti-poll tax unions are under the control of Militant supporters. They include:

Basildon APTU, where Mr John McKay, a Militant, holds sway; Grimby APTU, which was recently addressed by Mr Gareth Hallberg, a member of Militant's Youth Rights Campaign; Hull APTU, one of whose leading members is Mr Alastair Tice, a contributor to the Militant newspaper; Market Harborough APTU, whose secretary is Mr Martin Page, a contributor to Militant;

Lion Farm APTU, whose chairman is Mr Bill Mullins, a member of Militant's central

committee; Lothians APTU, whose secretary is Mr Russell Taylor, a Militant activist who reported in the organization's newspaper how he had warned off sheriff officers by telling them he could "make a phone call and very soon a dozen cars would be here sharpish";

Loughborough APTU, which was recently addressed by Mr Phil Daws, a Militant supporter, and which organized a violent demonstration on Monday; Oldham APTU, whose organizers include Miss Lynn Spence, a Militant supporter, and Mr Bryan Beckingham, an original shareholder in Militant's main company, WIR Publications, and a member of Militant's central committee;

Potteries APTU, where Mr Andy Bentley, a regular Militant contributor, is a prominent member; Swadincote

APTU, where a prominent member is Mr Paul Shawcroft, a long-standing Militant supporter who was expelled from the Mansfield Labour Party in 1985;

Whitwell APTU, where a prominent member is Mr Ian Whytes, a contributor to Militant; and Wrexham APTU, whose main Militant supporter is Mr Steve Brittain.

Many Labour councils, which are feeling the brunt of the anti-poll tax demonstrations, are tightening security on their town halls.

Some Labour boroughs are following the tactics used by Reading council earlier this week in restricting access to the public galleries in town hall chambers.

In Reading, 50 out of the 70 seats available to the public were filled by what one councillor described as "loyal trade unionists".

Heart baby back to Russia with love

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mrs Elena Abramovich cuddles her son Fyodor yesterday before they return to the Soviet Union after a life-saving heart operation at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The boy, aged 13 months, had been brought from Minsk by his mother last month for the four-hour operation, costing £23,000,

which is not available in Russia (Helen Johnstone writes). Fund-raising for Mr James Butterwick, an assistant at the Roy Miles Gallery in Bruton Street, central London, had made the operation possible. Mr Butterwick, who studied in Minsk in 1985, had heard of the baby's plight through a former room-mate. Mrs

Abramovich, a secretary aged 26, attributes her son's heart defect to exposure to radiation after the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. At the time she was living 90 miles away and says the full effects are only now beginning to show, with an increase in child diseases, especially blood disorders.

Patten shake-up of planning will give priority to sensitive areas

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

A radical shake-up of the planning system is being prepared by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, for legislation in the next session of Parliament.

In an effort to prevent unrestricted development in sensitive areas and to simplify the complex procedures involving the counties and districts, the Government will require district councils to draw up local structure plans.

The two-tier planning system will be changed and the district authorities will be given the main responsibility for drawing up plans.

The counties will, however, provide the detailed guidance on which the district plans must be based.

County structure plans could disappear, although Mr Patten appears determined to maintain a greater role for the counties than that envisaged by his predecessor, Mr Nicholas Ridley.

Mr Patten is understood to have won a slot in the next legislative timetable for the Bill. It is also expected to outline big changes to the planning appeal system to prevent repetitive applications and frivolous challenges and to improve compensation for people whose properties



Mr Patten

lose value because of road, rail and other developments.

Although Mr Patten has won the approval of his colleagues for the planning Bill, to shake up the town and country planning system, there are, as yet, no present proposals for another green Bill in the next session of Parliament.

A White Paper on the environment will be published in September and ministers have not given up hope of including an environmental measure in the next session.

Some of the paper's proposals may also be possible without legislation.

Mr Patten and his colleagues are dissatisfied with the speed with which district councils have drawn up local plans. The councils have blamed the delays - often 10 to 15 years - on the drawing up of county plans.

The department is also considering charging for planning appeals; at present fees are charged only for applications.

A Department of Environment consultation paper has suggested a charge of £100 for written appeals by householders and £200 for public inquiry appeals. For developments of 50 or more homes, a £4,000 charge is being considered for written appeals, with £8,000 for public appeals.

Most of the wastes that will no longer be dumped in the North Sea after 1998 could be discarded safely in the deepest parts of the mid-Atlantic, according to one of the Government's leading marine biologists (Our Science Editor writes).

The use of the deep oceans as an option for disposal of "bulky but low toxicity materials", including bulk sewage sludge, dredging spoils, fly ash, mining tails and various biodegradable industrial effluents will be recommended today by Dr Martin Angel, to the International Oceanology Con-

ference, meeting in Brighton. His proposals are contained in a paper describing the results of 10 years research into the physical, chemical and biological oceanography of abyssal plains, which are the vast flat areas of the seabed at very great depths.

Dr Angel, head of the biology department at the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences, Wormley, in Surrey, says on average each person in Britain produces 10 tons of waste a year.

He suggests that when the most dangerous chemical substances are destroyed and radioactive wastes isolated in long-term repositories, the bulk of the remainder could be dumped at ocean depths greater than 3000 metres.

But he stressed effluents would have to be piped directly into deep waters.

He proposes three sites, each of 50 square miles in the Northeastern Atlantic, to allow all year round operations and avoid a long-term accumulation of wastes.

He said the studies showed the oceans could be used with no interference to other uses of the ocean, no disruption of living or non-living marine resources and no danger of material reaching the food chain.

The figures emphasize London's continuing role as capital of the world art market. A total £1,864 million worth of art and antiques created 100 years or more ago was exported, while the figure for imports was £1,670 million.

Not surprisingly exports of antiques to Japan from Britain rose 42 per cent to £35 million, and exports of pictures rose 108 per cent to £184 million.

Exports of antiques to

Welsh nationalists take stand against community charge

By Ray Clancy

Welsh nationalist councillors sparked the first significant local authority opposition to the poll tax in Wales last night as mass demonstrations continued elsewhere in the country.

The 10 Plaid Cymru councillors on Islwyn Borough Council, which is in Mr Neil Kinnock's constituency, said they would not pay the charge as they wanted to support hundreds of people in the area who cannot afford the tax.

"It is absurd and immoral that a person on a low income should have to pay the same as a millionaire living in the same area," Mr Aneurin Richards, a councillor, said. "By withholding our payment and taking the consequences we can support those who cannot afford to pay."

One hundred Plaid Cymru members have already formed a "can pay, but won't" voluntary body to test the legality of the poll tax in the courts.

Meanwhile disruption of a council meeting in Hackney, east London, began hours early when town hall staff walked out in protest over security measures which included private security guards standing at every exit. Cleaners and other staff refused to work on instructions from their unions which said boarded-up windows and doors infringed safety regulations.

"It was like Fort Knox. We saw fire exits bolted. There were guard dogs all over the place and police and security guards posted outside," a spokesman for the local government workers' union Nalco said.

A council spokeswoman said there was no safety risk and the measures were taken to protect the building from violent demonstrators.

Protesters who disrupted a meeting of Hull City Council for 10 minutes yesterday were cleared from the public gallery by police. Another 300 demonstrators chanted and shouted outside the town hall, but there were no arrests. The council fixed a charge of £307.

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US court asks for Sevso files

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Sotheby's and Lord Northampton must file papers in New York today justifying their claim to the £40 million Sevso treasure.

The Manhattan State Supreme Court has asked them to do so after counter-claims were made by the Lebanese Government about the board - the most important to come into the market-place in modern times.

"We are waiting for surprises," a senior diplomat at the Lebanese embassy in Washington said yesterday.

Court papers filed by the

Mr Johnny Abdo, Lebanese ambassador, said any request by the Marquess of Northampton Settlement, the trust which claims ownership of the treasure, would have been recorded in embassy archives. However, he said, his staff had failed to turn up any such reference.

Sotheby's claims to hold export licences issued by the Lebanese embassy in Beirut.

The Lebanese papers state: "I have been advised and believe that the records of the embassy do not contain any reference to any such filing by

the trust or by anyone seeking authentication of an export licence for any property bearing a description similar to the Sevso treasure."

A senior Lebanese diplomat said yesterday: "As far as our government is concerned, we are claiming these are Lebanese items and have been illegally exported and smuggled from our country. Sotheby's hesitation to show the documents they claim are export licences raises question marks."

The Lebanese have until Tuesday to file their response.

The bronze which broke all records for sculpture when it sold for £6.8 million at Sotheby's last December is now on offer to a foreign buyer for £7.5 million.

The Government has given British museums two months to try to raise the £7.5 million.

The sculpture, of a dancing faun, is by Adrien de Vries, a pupil of the Mannerist sculptor Giambologna.

It stood unrecognized in the garden of an elderly couple for 40 years until they submitted it to a Sotheby's sale last autumn.

The couple bought it for about £100 (£1,500 at today's

prices) in the 1950s and it was acquired last December by the London dealer Mr Cyril Humphris.

After the sale he said: "In my 35 years of dealing this is the greatest sculpture on the market."

Yesterday he was travelling abroad and unavailable for comment.

The total value of art and antiques flowing in and out of

the United Kingdom rose 53 per cent last year, according to figures from the Department of Trade analysed by the *Antiques Trade Gazette*.

The figures emphasize London's continuing role as capital of the world art market. A total £1,864 million worth of art and antiques created 100 years or more ago was exported, while the figure for imports was £1,670 million.

Not surprisingly exports of antiques to Japan from Britain rose 42 per cent to £35 million, and exports of pictures rose 108 per cent to £184 million.

Exports of antiques to

Switzerland rose 143 per cent to £54 million; picture exports were £422 million, a 91 per cent rise.

Antique imports from Switzerland rose 39 per cent to £50 million, while pictures went up 81 per cent to £359 million.

The National Gallery has celebrated recent political events in Germany by acquiring a Berlin street scene by Eduard Gaertner, the leading Biedermeier painter.

The painting shows the Friedrichsgracht bathed in cool light as a prosperous quarter in the late 1850s. Nowadays the area is in downhill East Berlin, and largely

rebuilt. Best known for his panoramic views of Berlin, Gaertner enjoyed the patronage of the Prussian king, Friedrich Wilhelm III, and of Czar Nicholas I.

Historic Bill introduced

War crimes prosecutions could start within two years

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

An historic Bill paving the way for the first trials of alleged Nazi war criminals to be conducted in mainland Britain was introduced in Parliament yesterday. The first prosecutions could start within two years.

If the legislation is passed, courts face the prospect of hosting trials in which defendants, who could have lived in Britain for more than 40 years and may be in their eighties, will stand accused of war crimes like mass murder. If convicted, they will almost certainly die in jail here.

In view of the age of witnesses and possible defendants the Bill proposes that prosecutions should go through to full Crown Court hearings, by-passing commitment proceedings.

The trials are also likely to see the use of unprecedented court procedures, including evidence from witnesses abroad by live satellite link.

Announcing the Bill yesterday, Mr David Waddington, Home Secretary, said the Government had acted in response to a Commons vote in December in which MPs had agreed that the criminal jurisdiction should be ex-

tended to war crimes committed in Germany or German-occupied territory during the Second World War by "persons who are now British citizens or resident in the United Kingdom".

A special unit, comprising detectives, lawyers, interpreters and historians, is to be set up to bring to trial some of the 300 alleged war criminals who are claimed to have sought refuge in Britain. A government-commissioned inquiry has reported that there is already enough evidence to prosecute three individuals.

The all-party Parliamentary



Mr Waddington: Acted in response to Commons vote.

War Crimes Group, which has been campaigning for the law to be changed, believes the unit should be set up immediately and should start investigations while the Bill is being debated.

However, it is understood that ministers, aware of the stiff opposition the legislation is likely to face in the Lords, think such a move would be precipitate. As a result, detailed detective work is only likely to begin next summer at the earliest.

Mr Waddington indicated that any trials would involve unprecedented court procedures but he said these could be provided either under existing legislation or other Bills now going through Parliament. The only major clause in the short war crimes Bill, apart from the key one extending British jurisdiction, would be a proposal allowing cases to be transferred to crown court without commitment proceedings.

The Crown Prosecution Service is also likely to request its counterparts in other countries, such as the Soviet Union and Israel, to take evidence on its behalf from witnesses too old or frail to attend trials in

Britain. Provisions permitting such "letters of request" are contained in the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Bill, introduced earlier this year.

Mr Waddington, announcing the plans in a parliamentary written answer, also pointed out that courts already had the power to accept the testimony of people now deceased, in the form of letters or statements.

But he said the Government rejected a proposal made by the war crime inquiry, conducted by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the former Director of Public Prosecutions, and Mr William Chalmers, former Scottish Crown Agent, that archive evidence had to be endorsed by oral court statements.

The Commons, in a free vote, agreed by an unexpectedly large margin of three-to-one that legislation should be introduced. However, some legal experts in the Commons and the Lords think "retrospective" legislation is wrong, while a larger number feel uneasy about the prospect of people being tried so many years after their alleged crimes.

Policeman's illegal share applications

A police inspector was yesterday found guilty of making unlawful multiple applications for shares in British Gas and Rolls-Royce.

Clive Knox-Brown, aged 52, an officer in the Greater Manchester Police force, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment suspended for two years and was fined £8,000 and ordered to pay £10,000 costs. He had been suspended from his job since last year.

He was told by Judge Michael Anwyl-Davies, QC, at Southwark Crown Court: "It is indeed sad to see a person of your attainments and standing in society and your high position in the police force losing your reputation for honesty and integrity for all time. That, I know is a great punishment."

Knox-Brown used two of his sergeants, their families, and his next-door neighbours as "puppets" in his scheme to obtain thousands of shares to which he was not entitled, the court was told.

Knox-Brown made six applications for shares in British Gas and 12 for shares in Rolls-Royce.

Mr David Elfer, QC, for the

prosecution, said: "It is perfectly plain that this is a man who is very interested in shares in public companies."

He is well versed in the stock market and in the share market of this country."

Mr Elfer said that Knox-Brown knew perfectly well that he was only entitled to make one application for shares in each flotation.

"He wanted to slip the scripture of one person, one application," counsel said.

Knox-Brown told detectives when arrested: "I knew what I was doing was wrong and I bitterly regret it. I am not a deceitful person and I don't know why I did it. I have not made any money out of this and I have not done any harm."

He added: "All I set out to do was to get a reasonable amount of shares so I could invest my money, long term, in a British company. I do not think that that would be a criminal offence."

Knox-Brown, aged 52, of Chiltern Drive, Oldham, Lancashire, was found guilty of four sample charges of making illegal multiple share applications.

Late call to witness stops assault trial

A judge fiercely attacked the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) after assault charges against two young men were thrown out yesterday because the alleged victim, a key witness, was not told about the trial until 11 o'clock that morning.

But it was later claimed that warning a witness was not the CPS's responsibility.

Mr Barry Lenthorne, aged 36, was telephoned early yesterday morning and asked to attend court. He could not do so because it was too late to arrange cover for his job as a pierman at Tower Bridge.

The judge, assistant recorder Mr Barrington Black criticized the CPS for leaving it so late. He refused to allow the case at Southwark Crown Court to be adjourned.

The judge said: "It is no fault of the witness. It is entirely the fault of the support unit of the CPS. For them to rely on an officer on night duty to inform the witness is astonishing."

However, Mr Paul Glover, of the CPS, said the police were responsible for warning witnesses. The normal procedures had been followed in

alerting Mr Lenthorne that he was to appear in court, he said.

"He was warned by police three weeks ago. A letter told him the case was coming up in a set two week period."

"Last night they made attempts to phone him through-out the evening. Then they got a home telephone number and got him at the time he said."

Mr Glover added: "Warnings to witnesses is not a function performed by the CPS."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We do not give up. If they are not in earlier we haven't got any option but to phone in the early hours of the morning."

"We are phoning them in the hope of getting the case heard. We haven't the resources to get an officer to their doorstep."

Mr Timothy Shaw, aged 21, a British Telecom engineer of Lower Kingswood, Surrey, and Mark Still, aged 22, a panel beater of Croydon, south London, were cleared of charges of assault causing bodily harm.

When the judge refused to adjourn the case the prosecution offered no evidence.

A break from stonewalling



John Major showed his skill as a cricketer yesterday for the first time in 25 years. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is patron of Surrey's 1990 Youth Cricket Year, was promoting the cause at the Oval, where he first watched Surrey at the age of nine. He took off his jacket, donned pads, borrowed Ian Greig's bat and began to thump the Surrey captain's

bowling as though he had never stopped playing. After hitting a few off drives he was told by Greig: "Here's one you can put through the covers". The Chancellor put it exactly where invited. Mr Major had not played cricket since breaking a leg in a car accident when he was 20. "You suddenly realize how much you have missed," he said afterwards.

Conflict over new ruling on radio and TV lists

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Television magazines with detailed programme listings are set to boom after an announcement by the Government last night on how it will break up the Radio Times and TV Times duopoly.

The BBC, ITV and new satellite broadcasters will have to provide information about television and radio output to anyone wanting to start up a listings magazine.

But a dispute is likely to begin over how much magazine publishers should pay for the information and there will be conflict between broadcasters and companies, such as News International, which have television and publishing interests.

A new government clause to the Broadcasting Bill says broadcasters will be obliged to supply information about future programme schedules to magazine publishers. If there is a disagreement over the price to be paid for such information, the Copyright Tribunal will adjudicate. However, the tribunal is renowned for its slowness in reaching decisions.

Until disagreements over payment are resolved, broadcasters will have to supply listings information but magazine publishers will decide what price to pay for the information.

The bias in favour of publishers has annoyed broadcasting chiefs, including Mr Michael Checkland, director general of the BBC. "This is the market philosophy turned on its head," he told a recent conference.

A discussion paper on the issue published yesterday by BBC Enterprises, the corporation's sales wing, suggested the BBC should charge magazine publishers a percentage royalty on the revenues of publications taking listings.

Mr Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, last night described the Government's proposals as "unfair and against the spirit of true competition".

"We will be obliged to hand over our programme schedule to publishers who have a competing broadcasting interest," he said.

PORTFOLIO

There were no valid claims in yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum competition, therefore today's prize money has accumulated to £6,000.

Reform 'should not make divorce easy'

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, yesterday said that in reforming the laws on divorce it should not be made too easy for married couples to break up.

"One wants to have a law of divorce which reinforces the institution of marriage, which I believe is a fundamental institution in our society," he said.

The break-up of marriage, he added, was accompanied by "damaging consequences" for children of the marriage.

"Of course marriages are sometimes sadly broken by death and one partner is left to bring up the children."

"But I am thinking of marriages broken as a result of the break-down of the rela-

tionship between those who started with the high expectation for the continuation of the relationship as long as they lived."

His comments come as the Law Commission works on a draft Bill together with its final report reforming the law on divorce, expected in the summer.

The recommendations, Lord Mackay said, were inextricably linked with the future of conciliation services, which aimed to help divorcing couples to sort out disputes over children, money and property without bitterness.

Lord Mackay suggested that if the law was reformed to remove the element of fault—as is widely expected—there would more obviously be a role for conciliation, in helping couples to face the con-

sequences of their proposed break-up. He believes that otherwise it would be "institutional hypocrisy" to have a system which required proof of fault on divorce, provoking "recriminations between the parties", and then contained schemes aimed at removing the conflict from the process.

In its working paper in June 1988 the Law Commission proposed divorce would be automatic after a fixed period so that spouses would not have to allege fault or prove irretrievable breakdown.

The commission itself emphasizes that divorce under its proposals would not be quicker or easier.

In many cases the process would take longer than at present, and might be harder in that couples would be encouraged to make practical

arrangements for the future, with the children as a priority.

The two options for reform are a fixed period of separation or—the option favoured by the commission—a process of "divorce over time", in which all practical arrangements about home, money or children would be wrapped up in a fixed period of perhaps 12 months.

The principle behind the working paper, which aimed to remove recriminations and the whole basis of fault) would seem to be "more in line with a conciliation service having a role than perhaps the present system", Lord Mackay said.

His views will give encouragement to the various conciliation schemes, whose future is uncertain until a decision is reached on reforms to the divorce laws.

Saunders 'convicted' in his absence

Ernest Saunders was "tried and convicted" without a hearing by the Guinness board in the wake of the Distillers takeover, a court was told yesterday.

He was stripped of his position and of financial assistance promised to help him to clear his name, without being given a chance to explain himself, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Mr Victor Steel, former managing director of Guinness Brewing Worldwide, said that after Mr Saunders stepped down as chairman and chief executive pending a Department of Trade and Industry investigation into the £2.7 billion takeover, an executive meeting agreed to provide help and resources so he could vindicate his position. But five days later, the

board reversed the decision. Mr Saunders was dismissed the same day.

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, the chairman of Heron International, Sir Jack Lyons the financier, and Anthony Parmer the stockbroker deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act in respect of the 1986 takeover battle with the Argill supermarket chain for control of Distillers.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, for Mr Saunders, said: "You stripped the man not only of his position, but of financial assistance."

Mr Steel replied: "The board took the view that in no way could it make an open-ended commitment to support Mr Saunders."

Mr Ferguson asked if Sir Norman Macfarlane, who had

just been elected acting chairman of Guinness, had prompted the board to make the decision to cut off Mr Saunders's finance.

Mr Steel said: "I think so." Mr Ferguson: "This, at a stage where the board had not even had Mr Saunders before them to ask him to give an explanation on the allegations made against him?"

Mr Steel, now a director of the retail company Kingfisher, replied: "Yes."

Mr Steel said that Mr Saunders was not treated equally with Mr Olivier Roux, the former finance director who admitted involvement in alleged illegal share tactics.

Mr Ferguson asked Mr Steel: "Why was Mr Saunders not given at least parity of treatment with Mr Roux?"

Mr Steel replied: "I cannot

speculate on that", and Mr Ferguson went on: "The impression I got is that really Mr Saunders had been tried and convicted so far as the board was concerned."

Mr Steel replied: "I can only say that the board had decided to ask Mr Saunders to step down pending an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the letter from Olivier Roux."

He was referring to the letter from Mr Roux to Sir Norman and others which included allegations about the running of the company at the time of the takeover bid.

Mr Steel earlier described Mr Saunders as "a strong leader, very determined, aggressive for the growth of the business and dedicated to the growth of the company".

The case continues today.

Inquiry into Oxford student's 'sex romp'

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

A postgraduate student at Oxford University has been barred from running summer school programmes for visiting undergraduates after allegations that he had sexual intercourse with a student during a midnight swim in the river Cherwell.

The man, who is still at the university, has also been accused of kissing and sexually harassing other girls from Ohio State University and of taking part in a naked romp on a boat trip while he was working as an administrator at the summer school based in New College.

The university proctors are investigating the allegations but said in a letter to Ohio State that while sexual intercourse did apparently take place the allegations did not amount to rape. "At least so far as English law is concerned."

At one point the 39-year-old man was interviewed by Oxford police but no charges were brought.

This year's visit to Oxford by Ohio State University students to attend a general arts

course has been cancelled, although a spokeswoman for Oxford University said that the cancellation had nothing to do with complaints against the student.

The allegations centre on a five-week stay by 35 liberal arts students last July and August. After their return home Ohio State's acting vice-provost for international affairs, Mr Charles Hermann, wrote asking for a formal investigation of the alleged incidents.

In their reply the proctors said: "It is our understanding that sexual intercourse took place in only one case and that the allegation was not one of rape, at least so far as English law is concerned."

The Oxford University department of external affairs dismissed the postgraduate student after the complaints.

A university spokeswoman said: "A complaint has been received from Ohio State University. The proctors are looking into it and are not prepared to make a statement until the inquiry is over."

Security forces 'colluded with terrorists' on murder

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Two men who survived a "loyalist" attack in which a man was shot dead on Wednesday night called yesterday for the Stevens inquiry to investigate what they claim was a classic example of a murder carried out by terrorists acting in collusion with the security forces.

Mr Tony McCaughey, aged 31, and Mr Colin Duffy, aged 22, managed to escape when two masked gunmen opened fire from a car as they walked along Kilmalee Street in Lurgan, Co Armagh.

Mr Samuel Marshall, aged 31, an unemployed dumper truck driver and a prominent republican, who served six years in jail between 1976 and 1982 for terrorist offences, died instantly after being hit in the head. The three men had been returning from reporting to Lurgan police station in accordance with privately agreed bail conditions in connection with charges of possessing ammunition.

Yesterday Mr McCaughey and Mr Duffy said they had no confidence in a Royal Ulster Constabulary murder investigation and claimed police

officers must have assisted the gunmen. They said the affair should be investigated by Mr John Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, who is completing a five-month inquiry into allegations of collusion between members of the security forces and Protestant paramilitaries.

An RUC spokesman rebutted the men's claims and said that all allegations of collusion

between the security forces and "loyalist murder gangs" were groundless.

Sources close to the Stevens team said it was unlikely the murder would be investigated by them. It did not have the characteristics of a crime meriting their attention, and no request had been made by the RUC for it to be examined.

It is thought that Mr Stevens is reluctant to embroil

himself in further major investigations which would delay completion of his report and the conclusion of his inquiry later this month.

Mr Gerard Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister, speaking in Dublin, gave indirect backing to the growing clamour about the murder among Sinn Féin politicians, calling it "wasteful and senseless" and disclosing that he had asked for a report

on it from the Anglo-Irish Secretariat.

Asked whether he was concerned about collusion, he said: "This will be part of the inquiry being made on my behalf... Certainly this is a matter that has taken up a considerable amount of our attention in recent times and, of course, all allegations are matters of concern."

The men claim that as their

Widow loses battle over officers' evidence

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A widow from Northern Ireland yesterday lost the latest round of her legal battle to force Royal Ulster Constabulary officers involved in her husband's shooting seven years ago to give evidence at his inquest.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, the Attorney General, against a ruling won by Mrs Eleanor McKerr at the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal in December 1988. The Northern Ireland Court of Appeal said a coroner's rule that the three officers could not be compelled to give evidence was unlawful. One of the officers gave rise to allegations of a "shoot to kill" policy.

Mrs McKerr, from Lurgan, Co Armagh, has been calling for the officers—referred to as Sergeant A and Constables

B and C—to be called as witnesses. Mr James Elliott, the Armagh coroner, decided at the opening of the inquest in November 1988 to admit written statements from the officers but not to call them to give oral evidence.

Mrs McKerr's husband, James, was one of three men killed in a shooting incident in Craigavon, Co Armagh, in November 1982.

Lord Goff said yesterday that it was "undisputed" that "they were killed by shots fired by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary".

The three officers were tried and acquitted of the murder of one of the three victims, Eugene Toman, before the inquest on Mr McKerr opened.

The appeal turned on the legality of one of the rules introduced more than 25

years ago by the Northern Ireland Ministry of Home Affairs to regulate practice and procedure in Northern Ireland coroners' courts.

The rule required that "a person suspected of causing the death, or who has been charged or is likely to be charged with an offence relating to the death" shall not be compelled to give evidence at an inquest.

The Court of Appeal said it was a well-established principle of law that, with a few exceptions, every person was a competent witness and could therefore be compelled to give evidence.

Mrs McKerr said she was bitterly disappointed by the decision, but proposed taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

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INITIAL PAYMENT (20% DEPOSIT)	£1685.20	£1685.20	£1685.20	£1685.20
MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	£ 561.73	£ 302.77	£ 226.00	£ 184.81
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Survey shows efficiency drives are destroying traditional ideas of service

Police 'out of touch with public's aims'

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

Traditional British policing, based on the patrolling constable working with the consent of the public, has been eroded substantially and perhaps irrevocably by drives for greater efficiency and value for money, according to a survey published yesterday.

The 300-page report, produced jointly by the three police staff associations representing all ranks, spares neither police nor Government in showing that many officers are seriously out of touch with public demands, chasing the image of the "crime buster" when the public wants to see a caring community officer.

Too much money is spent on wages while too little goes on buildings and equipment. The police have no general statement of purpose, little information from Government for long-term budget planning and do not properly use modern technology such as the computer.

A Harris Research Centre poll carried out for the survey showed 86 per cent of the public and 80 per cent of police consultative group members questioned saw crime prevention as an important function while police placed this lower in their

priorities. The public thought more officers should work on foot while the police thought the current ratios were right.

The survey, *Operational Policing Review*, found that many recent moves towards efficiency were in danger of destroying the "service" ethos of policing making the public's hopes even more difficult to achieve. Other policies, generated by the Home Office to save money and to modernize ways of calculating the need for more manpower, in themselves waste manpower.

The survey makes 36 recommendations; it calls on the police to warn the public and Government of their problems, urging all forces to re-examine priorities and to develop a formal national policy-making group to speak for the whole service.

Yesterday, as the survey, one of the most wide-ranging police research projects for 30 years, was launched, police leaders accepted that they may have to rethink attitudes.

Mr Alan Eastwood, chairman of the Police Federation, said: "The policeman on the beat has got to take precedence in the thinking of all ranks. The police service has got to learn from our report

THE PUBLIC VIEW

Question: Below is a selection of types of offences. Which five offences do you think the police should spend most time and energy trying to fight?

Sexual assaults on women	67%
Burglary of people's houses	64%
Drunk driving	55%
Vandalism/damage to property	46%
Robberies (with violence) in street	44%
Crimes in which firearms are used	41%
Use of heroin or other hard drugs	39%
Theft of/from motor cars	31%
Fighting/rowdiness in the streets	28%
Litter/rubbish lying around	17%
Use of cannabis/pot/marijuana	16%
Parking/general traffic offences	14%
Bag-snatching/pick-pocketing	12%
Racial attacks	12%
Noisy parties/domestic disturbances	7%



THE POLICE VIEW

Question: Below is a selection of types of offences. Which five offences do you think the police should spend most time and energy trying to fight?

Burglary of people's houses	82%
Violent robbery in the street	62%
Sexual assaults on women	50%
Crimes with firearms	48%
Use of heroin or other hard drugs	47%
Fighting/rowdiness in the streets	45%
Theft of/from vehicles	45%
Drunk driving	41%
Vandalism/damage to property	38%
Bag-snatching/pick-pocketing	9%
Racial attacks	8%
Parking/traffic offences	6%
Use of cannabis, pot and marijuana	6%
Litter/rubbish lying around	2%
Noisy parties/domestic disturbances	1%

and adapt and change to what the public wants — a more sympathetic police officer."

Mr John Dellow, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: "The pursuit of value for money tends to concentrate resources into measurable areas, but the survey shows that the public also values highly the less

easily measurable 'quality of service' aspects of day-to-day policing."

Concentrating on police tasks which can be measured easily might jeopardize traditional policing and lose the consent of the public in the process, he said.

The police might have seen some of the pitfalls of policies earlier, he said; the survey "exposes some of the diffi-

culties and risks of following one policy so devotedly that you exclude anything else."

The survey defined traditional policing as low on numbers, low on power and high on accountability.

The ideal was best illustrated by the "single constable, close to his community, patrolling his beat with the consent of the public and armed only with his lawful

powers and his use of discretion". Pressures for greater efficiency had eroded the concept and practice of traditional policing yet the public placed the concept higher in their preferences than other police activities or deployment.

The survey was divided into six areas of research organized by individual forces. Examining demands and resources Sussex police found that since

1974, when the present force areas were created, police resources have increased by 60 per cent, including 55 per cent since 1979 under the present Government.

Police strength has risen by 22 per cent since 1974 and establishments by 9 per cent; police pay has been above average earnings. However the research showed the manpower gains were absorbed by new work demands such as legislation.

Northumbria police looked at efficiency and effectiveness and found that while police were meeting value for money demands they were also wasting manpower trying to find arguments for extra officers. There was a danger of "paralysis by analysis".

The Home Office had encouraged greater use of civilians but poor pay and a lack of a career structure had helped to create a wastage rate of 28 per cent. A policy intended to save money could prove very expensive.

The Home Office said yesterday that it was too early to comment on the study, but many of the recommendations supported initiatives already under discussion.

The Association of County Councils broadly welcomed the survey.

Conflict on poll tax foreseen in 1990s

By Our Crime Correspondent

The community charge and a possible high rate of evasion in paying it are seen as potential policing areas in the 1990s.

Predictions on changes in the new decade drawn up by a police team also show that a society where there is a widening gap between rich and poor will lead to an increase in demands from the police, a proportion of whom will themselves feel alienated.

Terrorism and drug problems will increase, helped by the relaxation of EC frontiers, and police may find themselves enforcing anti-pollution laws as the green lobby grows. An influx of Hong Kong refugees could also bring fresh racial discord.

The predictions are made in a survey of the 1990s drawn up by officers from Avon and Somerset police for the operational policing review put together by the three associations representing the police service. The review notes that the research has to be speculative and is open to criticism.

The forecast suggests that the Government will continue to look for savings in public spending and the police will continue to be pressed to give more value for money, which may reduce their ability to provide a preventive or service function.

There could also be changes in the organization of the police at a national or regional level and there could be increased centralization to meet the threat from national and international crime.

The survey notes that future social trends offer a mixed bag of possibilities for the police. Fewer young people will reduce crime but make recruiting more difficult. A mild economic recession might also reduce some crimes but a full blown recession could lead to unprecedented tension.

The police may face fresh and sometimes harsh decisions on policing. The service in the 21st century may be more cost-effective but less rooted to the people.

Crime fighter losing support to helpful officer on the beat

By Our Crime Correspondent

The police and public are at odds in how they view good policing, according to two opinion polls.

Policemen believe that fighting crime by strong positive policing will be more effective than by community strategies. The public wants the helpful officer on the beat rather than the law enforcer.

The opposing views of what a policeman should be doing in the 1990s emerged when 1,085 members of the public were questioned about policing and more than 2,000 officers were asked how they saw their jobs.

Overall, the police have more public support than many other recent polls have suggested but the research also showed evidence of a disturbing level of low morale among junior police ranks created by bad management and shortages of resources.

The surveys showed that while the public and the police agreed about police priorities they differed on what should be done and how police manpower should be used.

Police place less emphasis than the public on crime prevention and community policing although that changes as they rise in rank. They believe efforts should be concentrated on offences that can be solved.

The public does not accept that and seeks wider preventive measures.

The report says: "The public have a very strong preference for the caring community style of policing rather than the firm law enforcer... The public fully support the law enforcement role but would wish it to be implemented by the officer who involves himself with the community and uses his discretion."

Assessing the present public attitudes towards the police, the survey found that 77 per cent believed they were doing a good job. Those responding that the job done was very good were 18 per cent, fairly good, 59 per cent, rather poor, 16 per cent and very poor, 3 per cent. A further 3 per cent had no opinion.

The survey was taken before the Guildford four case last October, which raised serious questions about policing and

public confidence. Looking at priorities for the police, the survey found the public placed sexual assaults against women top of the list with 67 per cent; burglary of homes, 64 per cent; drink-driving, 55 per cent; vandalism, 46 per cent; violent street

Police place less emphasis on community policing

robbery, 44 per cent; crimes with guns, 41 per cent; use of hard drugs, 39 per cent; anticrime, 31 per cent; rowdiness and street fighting, 26 per cent; litter, 17 per cent; cannabis use, 16 per cent; traffic offences, 14 per cent; bag snatching and pick-pocketing, 12 per cent; racial attacks, 12 per cent; and noisy parties or domestic trouble, 7 per cent.

There was a strong case for more officers on foot and the survey found that only three out of 10 had seen a policeman on the beat in their area in the previous week. Many people thought the police relied too much on vehicles and 70 per cent wanted as many

officers on foot as in cars. The public said the four top police tasks were responding to 999 calls, detecting and arresting offenders, investigating crime and foot patrols.

The survey showed the public felt there were already enough resources for the law enforcement role represented by the first three and more should be done for less reactive policing. It found most people "would like to see a more localized and preventive style of policing".

The police survey showed overall morale was satisfactory but there was potentially very disturbing evidence about levels of morale in the lower ranks, showing that 43 per cent of constables regarded morale as very low. When officers were questioned about the reasons behind this 30 per cent blamed poor management and 24 per cent spoke of a lack of resources.

Police felt that burglary of homes should have the highest priority with 82 per cent support. This was followed by 62 per cent for mugging, sex attacks on women, 50 per cent; crime with guns, 48 per cent; hard drugs, 47 per cent; street disturbances, 45

per cent; anticrime, 45 per cent; drink-driving, 41 per cent; vandalism, 38 per cent; bag snatching, 9 per cent; racial attacks, 8 per cent; litter, 6 per cent; cannabis, 6 per cent; noisy parties or domestic problems, 1 per cent.

Additional manpower should go on more foot patrols but these should act against crime rather than crime prevention or community liaison.

More than half the officers were in favour of an independent complaints investigation system and more than three out of five were against a national police force. Three-quarters were in favour of more national police units but 60 per cent were against the creation of special riot police; 86 per cent were in favour of guns being issued only to highly trained units rather than a wider range of officers.

The research included a survey of 387 members of police consultative committees which supported many of the public findings. Overall 90 per cent of the committee members felt the police were doing a good or fairly good job.

Support of parents puts Indian pupils on top of examination league

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Indian children do much better at school than English, Scots and Welsh pupils, according to a report published yesterday after an analysis of the examination results of 20,000 children.

The report by the Inner London Education Authority (Ilea) says Indian children are given more encouragement by their parents while teachers expect too little from Caribbean and white working-class children. As a result Indians are far in front in a table of GCE O level and CSE examinations.

It says parents from other backgrounds, including white working-class families, could learn from the Indian tradition of setting goals and supporting their children's education.

Children with Caribbean and Bangladeshi backgrounds join the English, Welsh and Scots at the bottom of the table. Children of Pakistani and south-east Asian origin, mainly Vietnamese and Chinese from Hong Kong, were among the high-fliers.

Professor Desmond Nuttall, director of research and statistics for Ilea, said there was a wide gap between the high-scoring Indian and low-scoring white children. "We know that many families of Indian background have very high aspirations for their children. They want them to enter the professions, like law and medicine."

The parents were often from a high social class, including many of those Indian families expelled from Uganda in the

early 1970s. Professor Nuttall said: "I just wish that all parents would expect as much from their children and support them in the same way."

Professor Nuttall said white children from English, Scottish and Welsh backgrounds were seen to be doing even worse when other social factors were taken into the equation.

"It does not surprise me that Indian children have

HOW THEY RATED

Average examination scores 1987 (O level grade A, 7 points; grade B, 6 points; grade C and CSE grade 1, 5 points): Indian 22.8; European (Italian, Spanish, east European) 22.5; Pakistani 20.6; South-east Asian (Chinese, Vietnamese, Hong Kong) 18.8; Greek 18.5; Irish 18.2; Other white (US, New Zealand, Australia) 18.1; African 17.6; Arab 16.8; Other black 16.0; English, Scots, Welsh 15.7; Caribbean 14.3; Turkish 13.1; and Bangladeshi 9.9.

Average score 16.1

done so well, but it does surprise me that the gap is so wide."

He said too many white working-class parents had low expectations for their children which were then reinforced by schools. "Some teachers do not expect enough from under-achieving groups. They expect working-class children and Caribbean children not to do well. The stereotype then becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

In every case girls did better

than boys with an overall score of 14 for boys and 18.2 for girls, although girls did slightly better in single-sex schools than they did in mixed schools.

The survey also showed that Church of England schools were no more successful than state schools, while Roman Catholic schools achieved higher scores, probably because teachers and parents were more committed to working together to improve children's education.

The report from Ilea, which will hand over responsibility for education to the London boroughs on April 1, also says some schools can handle particular pupils better than others. "One school may be particularly effective for students who are above average on entry while another may work better for students who are below average on entry. Students from one ethnic group may thrive more in one school than another."

The table was compiled from an analysis of the 1987 results for those aged 16 sitting the final year of the old CSE and GCE O level examinations, now replaced by the GCSE. The final returns were based on 116 of the 141 secondary schools in inner London with 18,314 pupils.

The average score for all pupils was 16 points. Most English, Scots and Welsh children — half of the sample — scored just below average, with Caribbean children scoring about 14 and Bangladeshi between nine and 10. Indian children scored up to 23 or 24.

Veterans prepare return to Dunkirk



Mr Jim Horton and Mr Tom Noyce, Dunkirk veterans, at the Against All Odds exhibition at the National Army Museum.

By John Young

The fiftieth anniversary of "a miracle in Britain's history" will be commemorated with pride and emotion during the spring bank holiday weekend in May, when more than 3,000 veterans and their families will gather on the beaches of Dunkirk.

Some 70 boats still surviving from the armada which rescued 350,000 troops from the bombardment of German guns will set sail for the French coast, accompanied by 300 to 400 other craft assembled by the Cruising Association.

The veterans will be guests of the French Government, and on the morning of May 27

will parade through the town. In the afternoon a memorial service will be held on the foreshore, when a wreath will be dropped amid the tolling of a helicopter from the frigate HMS Alacrity.

Yesterday, on a smit spring morning at the National Army Museum, in Chelsea, General Sir Edward Burgess, president of the Royal British Legion, launched a £6 million appeal to build a home for the aged and needy among the survivors of an event which may well have changed the course of history.

"Those who fought for Britain in the Second World War are now reaching an age where their war wounds and experiences are taking their

toll," he said. The money would be used to provide a 70 to 80-bed home in the West Country, as a place of peace and tranquillity for those approaching the closing years of their lives.

A suggestion that this might be the last Dunkirk commemoration was refuted by brightly veterans, who regard themselves as youngsters compared with those who still make pilgrimages to the battlefields of the First World War.

Mr Jim Horton, honorary general secretary of the Dunkirk Veterans Association, said that it has 7,000 active members.

Altogether an estimated 20,000 people were qualified as life members, and many of

those were now coming forward to offer their services and to rejoin their former comrades.

As a "medic" in 141 Field Ambulance, he tended the wounded during the evacuation. He described it as a horrific experience but said he had forgotten the bad things. "One remembers the good things, and the comradeship that has endured."

The memorial home appeal is administered by the Royal British Legion in association with the Royal Naval Association, with the support of the Dunkirk Veterans Association and the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships.

The telephone number for the appeal is 0839 800 999.

Contempt case given go-ahead

The Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, was given leave by the High Court yesterday to bring contempt proceedings against *The Sport* newspaper over an article it published during the hunt for David John Evans, who was later convicted of murdering a schoolgirl.

Sir Patrick alleged that publication of the article in November 1988, headlined "Evans was given 10 years for rape", constituted a grave contempt in that it was intended or calculated to interfere with imminent criminal proceedings against Evans and in any event was likely to prejudice a fair trial. The article appeared five days before Evans's arrest in France.

No short cut

Gary Rewcastle, aged 20, of Barnard Castle, Durham, who was sacked by Safeway supermarkets for refusing to have his hair cut, was awarded £500 for unfair dismissal by an industrial tribunal yesterday.

Police accused

Civil proceedings for unlawful arrest and detention have been launched against the Metropolitan Police on behalf of 24 Sikhs, after arrests in May 1987 at a Sikh temple in Belvedere, Kent.

Heavy metal

Thieves have taken nine tons of metal ingots from a British Steel plant at Port Talbot, West Glamorgan.

Karpov wins

The former world champion Anatoly Karpov (Soviet Union) beat Jan Timman (The Netherlands) in the first game of the world candidates' chess final in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Gunman jailed

Raymond Bennett, aged 37, of Middlesbrough, Cleveland, who shot a shopkeeper in the back and paralysed him for life, was jailed for 17 years.

15p mugging

A mugger stole 15p from a pregnant woman in Walsall after punching her and attacking her daughter aged two.

School fire

Fire badly damaged a comprehensive school in Barking, east London, yesterday.

Ban on pin-ups

Topless pictures and calendars are to be banned from all Welsh Office departments.

Advertising ban challenged

By Our Education Editor

A Labour county council is to face High Court action over a decision not to advertise for teachers in *The Times Educational Supplement*.

Mr Justice Schiemann, sitting in London, granted Mrs Pauline Latham, a Derbyshire councillor, the supplement, critical of Mr David Bookbinder, the Labour council leader. It is claimed the move came after Derbyshire's ruling Labour group resolved to withdraw all advertising in newspapers owned by Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Group.

The education committee decided in December to move national advertising from *The Times Educational Supplement* to *The Guardian* for a year. Mrs Latham, of Little

Eaton, Derby, and the newspaper group allege that this was a "sham" based solely on the *Sunday Times* articles, and that advertising in *The Guardian* would prove more expensive and reach fewer teachers.

The council is accused of acting unlawfully under the terms of the Education Acts of 1944 and 1986. It is alleged that, although the council has not made any official decision to stop advertising in all Murdoch newspapers, it is following such a policy and damaging the ability of Derbyshire to attract top quality teachers.

Bernard Levin was entitled to write a vigorously critical article in *The Times* about the Singapore judiciary, but the judges or the state of Singapore would have been entitled to reply if they had sought to, the Press Council said yesterday.

The council rejected a complaint by Mr David Marshall, of Place de l'Avenue Foch, Paris, a former chief minister of Singapore and now one of its ambassadors, that the article was a gravely damaging and unfair attack on Singapore's legal system and that the newspaper failed to publish a balancing letter.

Mr Levin's column was headed "A lively trade in vilification". He said advertisements in the *Financial*

Times and *The Guardian* were a statement by the Singapore Government attacking *The Times* for refusing to print in its entirety a letter complaining about an earlier article.

Referring to the "increasing megalomania of Singapore's perpetual ruler, Lee Kuan Yew", Mr Levin said he had filled the judicial bench with his placemen. The most shocking case of perverted justice was the one which provoked the advertisements. Proceedings had been rigged to prevent the Privy Council's decision on the case of a lawyer, Ben Jeyaretnam.

In a letter to the editor Mr Marshall said the article was a grossly unfair attack on a fine body of men who served Singapore with integrity, ability

and dedication. He said he was an active practitioner in the courts there from 1937 to 1978 and had been in touch with developments since.

A week later he asked the editor to publish the letter. Mr Michael Hoy, the managing editor, told him it was not possible to publish all letters, and Singapore had received a great deal of attention in *The Times* generally and specifically on the letters page.

Mr Hoy said Mr Levin's article related to detailed allegations about the influence of the Singapore Government on the courts well after Mr Marshall's departure. His letter did not advance the discussion.

The Press Council's adjudication was: "Mr Levin's vig-

orously critical article about the Singapore judiciary was one he was entitled to write, but one to which either the judiciary or the state of Singapore on its behalf would have been entitled to expect an opportunity to reply.

"Neither sought one. Although Mr Marshall is a former chief minister of Singapore and currently one of its ambassadors he made clear that the letter he submitted was sent in a personal capacity and not on behalf of any body or institution.

"In these circumstances it was wholly within the discretion of the editor to decide whether or not to publish the letter."

"The complaint against *The Times* is rejected."

Kohl wants to slow down pace of reunification

From Michael Binyon, Brussels
and Ian Murray, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday reassured his NATO allies that Germany would consult constantly with all its friends and partners, and that he wanted to proceed with reunification at a slower, reasonable pace.

He added that none of his smaller neighbours had anything to fear.

Earlier the West German Parliament, after a rowdy two-hour debate, passed a resolution assuring "the Polish people... of their right to live in secure borders. It was the first concrete step towards an internationally binding treaty guaranteeing its present borders."

Herr Kohl told the Bundestag that he would see to it that both German parliaments and both governments — after the East German elections on March 18 — would guarantee the future of Poland's existing western border.

In contrast to the rowdy Bundestag session, the meeting with the NATO ambassadors was officially described as "intensive, constructive, fruitful, lively and friendly."

The Chancellor said no one need worry that Germany was going to go it alone; unification had to be embedded in

the overall developments of Europe. But he implicitly rebuked those who complained that it was going too quickly. For decades, he said, Germany's allies had been talking about reunification, saying they wanted it. But they did not think it would happen for a long time yet. "President Gorbachev is right when he says history catches up on you. Now we all have to be taken at our word."

He expressed a certain injured defiance in the face of doubts about the process. For 41 years the Federal Republic had existed, getting most things right — though not everything. "That is why we deserve confidence and trust, and that is what I am asking for."

He had not originally planned such a swift process, but had been pushed by the stream of people leaving East Germany, and the constant chants of demonstrators that "we are one people". He now wanted to calm things down, and proceed along more orderly tracks.

The Chancellor's assurances were well received in Brussels. NATO allies made it clear that they were greatly relieved by his change of mind.

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Secretary General, said the meeting opened a formal sequence of consultations with the allies. He said they all supported

unification and for a united Germany to remain in NATO. They also welcomed the Chancellor's recent statements on the Polish border issue.

Herr Kohl said reunification was a "very moving" subject for him and his countrymen. "Everyone feels this is a historic moment," he told reporters after his meeting at NATO headquarters. But the process was "stormy" as developments were pushing it forward.

His overwhelming concern was to synchronize his discussions on unity with consultations with friends and allies. He said these would be held wherever possible — within NATO, in the European Community and at the special EC summit on Germany next month.

Herr Kohl's visit came a day after M

Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, held talks with Herr Wörner at which he was understood to have expressed support for closer co-ordination between the EC and NATO on defence policy, and discussed the implications of German unity.

Although defence is officially outside the scope of the 12 EC members, M Delors has often made it clear he sees the Community's growing political integration forcing it to increasingly address defence issues. He has also been concerned that West Germany's preoccupation with reunification should not distract it from its obligations to the EC.

At the Bundestag session, Herr Kohl was accused of lying and stabbing Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign

Minister, in the back. But he appeared to enjoy the stormy debate, in which his Christian Democrats (CDU) and the closely allied Christian Social Unionists (CSU) were backed by Herr Genscher's party, the Free Democrats (FDP).

His good humour was doubtless due in part to polls which show that the CDU in East Germany has almost pulled level with the Social Democrats (SPD), scoring 30 per cent against 34 per cent.

In the Bundestag, the SPD and Greens failed to delete any reference in the full text of the motion on war reparations or the cultural rights of ethnic Germans in Poland. Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD leader, said Herr Kohl's behaviour in linking these subjects with the border question had damaged the Chancellor's office as never before.

Herr Jürgen Schmude, an SPD member, tried to rub the point home. The Chancellor, he said, was "an arsonist in the European house".

But by prior agreement, the three coalition parties voted through the resolution, which — beyond the border issue — said pointedly to Warsaw that existing declarations on the two issues "remain valid for a united Germany". It was essential, Herr Kohl said, that there should be total clarity that Poland had

renounced claims to reparations in 1953. The Chancellor sat smiling despite the opposition onslaught. The Foreign Minister, who was heard with respect on all sides — he alone won applause from everyone — said that the resolution was important because there had to be clarity on the various issues.

For him the most important aspect of the reunification discussions between the two Germanies and the four Second World War allies was a resolution of the external aspects — NATO membership, the military status of East Germany and the status of Soviet troops on the present territory of East Germany.

Once these issues were settled, Herr Genscher said, the result would lead to stability throughout Europe.

The Bundestag resolution seems to have gone some way towards calming Polish fears. In Gdansk, Herr Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economic Minister, met Mr Leszek Balcerowicz, the deputy Polish Prime Minister, who said it was "the right step in the right direction" although he added that it was still not fully in line with what Poland was seeking. Poland, he said, wanted to be involved in the negotiations on the frontier.

German unification talks put Western allies under strain

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

The foundations of today's talks in Berlin between the two Germanies, and of the meetings they will have with the four Second World War Allies from next Wednesday, were laid in the side-rooms and corridors of the Ottawa Congress Centre during the "Open Skies" conference last month.

The pivotal decisions taken in Ottawa are causing huge strains in the Western alliance. The two Germanies, the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union have deeply offended those countries who were excluded from their select group — and have also provoked a diplomatic squabble among themselves.

The secret Ottawa meetings produced the "two plus four" formula under which the two Germanies will agree on unification terms between themselves, then meet the four Allies to discuss the external aspects, including the security of neighbouring countries.

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, sees it as one of the most important agreements of post-war German history, establishing Germany's right to settle its own internal affairs.

Its importance for other countries is that the Germanies will unite by negotiation, rather than by simply announcing a *fait accompli*. The "two plus four" formula, so the argument goes, reduces the risk that the scramble for unity might destabilize European security.

It was, however, a deal that could equally have been reached between the two superpowers and the two Germanies. France and Britain were brought in because of their wartime role and because

they are residual occupation powers in Berlin; it was also convenient for Washington to have their support as NATO allies.

Neither country was entirely happy with Washington's original proposals, but both quickly acquiesced, probably because they would otherwise have been ignored.

But the inclusion of Britain and France infuriated other countries with strong claims to be involved from the start. Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands and Denmark, among the NATO allies, will be affected.

East Berlin — East Germany denied knowledge yesterday of alleged involvement in drug running (Anne McElvey writes). This followed a *Washington Post* report which claimed Herr Erich Honecker, the former head of state, oversaw cocaine smuggling to West Germany in a Soviet plot to undermine NATO forces.

by reunification at least as much as will France — and possibly more so than Britain.

Signor Gianni De Michelis, the Italian Foreign Minister, made his anger clear to Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, when they met in London last week. "We had hoped this sort of secret deal was a thing of the past," one Italian diplomat said.

The six foreign ministers involved in the secret deal were all smiles when mystified photographers were asked to take their picture in Ottawa just before its details were announced. But discordant accounts soon began appearing in American, British and, to a lesser extent, West German newspapers.

These accounts reflected

different versions of where the real power lies among the six states represented at next week's talks and their respective governments' claims to a stake in the glory, with Britain pretty well in front.

A Whitehall source close to Mrs Thatcher has infuriated the West Germans by persistently referring to the Ottawa formula as "four plus two", a change which might seem semantic, but which has great significance for the Germans, since it implies that the four powers will agree on unification before bringing in the two Germanies, which is the reverse of the Ottawa deal.

When challenged at a meeting with foreign journalists in London, the source said he did not intend it to have any political significance. He was, he said, a man of habits, and "four plus two" had stuck in his mind.

As a result, however, coverage of the reunification negotiations has used the phrase both ways round. At any rate, the confusion has had the effect of making the distinction seem unimportant — which may be what Whitehall officials wanted.

A senior Foreign Office official has used the two versions alternately, while other sources have said that, if the West Germans think it important, that is a matter for them. "As far as we are concerned, both versions add up to six, and the sooner people start talking about the six the better," one said.

One British newspaper reported Ottawa as a triumph but it seems clear that the US and West Germany were the true parents, and that Britain's claim to paternity is at best dubious.

Soviet wives up in arms against drudgery



Women and children protesting in Moscow yesterday over living standards with a banner reading: 'Down with privileges for Communist Party members.'

Fasting and feasting on Women's Day

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

On the fifteenth floor of a shabby high-rise block, half way along the built-up main road to Moscow's international airport, sit 30 or so women of various ages. They talk quietly but with determination, and occasionally sip water collected from a nearby spring.

While all Moscow is feasting — in celebration of International Women's Day — these women are fasting, as they and others have done on March 8 for the past four years.

They exchange experiences, gossip and rumours, they comfort each other and rejoice in the good news of others. They are all Jewish women "in refusal" — the state of having been refused permission to leave the Soviet Union for Israel.

Some have been refused on their own account, others might be allowed to leave but without their husbands. This year, for the first time, their fast will not last the usual three days but only one. "People are tired this year," Lysyaya Rapoport said.

"Women are especially tired — from all the searching and queuing for food — and some of our group are not

young." This year's fast is being held at the flat of Natasha Magazaniuk, whose family has just — after 15 years — received permission to emigrate to Israel.

They are booked to go on April 27 and the flat is filled with packing cases. Natasha, for whom this will be the last fast in the Soviet Union, said she, however, will not be eating for three days. Her next period of fasting will be in Israel, in sympathy with those she is leaving behind.

The scene at Natasha's flat offers a dignified contrast to the unrestrained and empty verbosity of official Women's Day celebrations in the Soviet capital. It is a contrast which is only partly dulled by the steady snowfall that has enveloped Moscow since early morning.

This is not a working day, few people are on the streets, and of those who are the men tend either to be drunk (alcohol was liberally available before the holiday to those prepared to queue) or carrying cellophane-wrapped carnations to present to their workmates. The women, as usual, are foraging for food.

Some time during the day they will gather together round the festive

table, which will be laden with whatever could be bought — cognac, champagne, chocolates, and big, tasteless apples.

There will be eloquent toasts to the women and girls of the household — to their beauty, good health, long life and success. These are clichés rehearsed by Soviet men from boyhood and are wishes against whose fulfilment every aspect of Soviet life conspires.

As usual, the *crème de la crème* of the Soviet leadership attended the gala evening for International Women's Day — 16 men (no wives mentioned) and one woman. But the Communist Party's Central Committee had the grace to acknowledge women's problems this year.

In a red-headlined message of congratulations on "their" day, published by *Pravda* and all national papers, the Central Committee said it realized that the difficulties besetting the country had fallen especially heavily on their shoulders. It assured them that the committee "will do all it can to ensure the disappearance of the queues and the shortages, the heavy manual labour and the discomforts of daily life".

The hollow laughter at this promise

will ring all the way to Vladivostok — from women who have no means of birth control other than abortion, who have to buy cosmetics on the black market, who spend two or more hours of every working day in queues, and whose kitchens look like a museum set from the 1930s.

International Women's Day is a deeply devalued holiday here. It lends an image of womanhood — ideal wife, mother and career woman — which is less attainable than almost anywhere else in the world.

Despite 70 years of protestations of equality, women are shunted into "women's jobs" where the necessary qualifications may be high (teaching, medicine and the law) but the pay is still lowest of the low.

Some have started to call International Women's Day the spring holiday, marking as it does the theoretical end of the Russian winter, and this would be more honest.

It would allow the men to get drunk and the women to take a day off without the sickly-sweet fawning of men before women which has come to dominate March 8 — and which seems intended as compensation for 364 days of drudgery.

Kremlin hails liberty as guarantee of stability

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet Union would prefer to be ringed by free, prosperous, democratic states open to East and West than by an artificial *cordon sanitaire* of unstable regimes kept in power by foreign bayonets.

So says the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, summing up Moscow's replacement for the Brezhnev Doctrine.

Mr Shevardnadze made the remarks in an interview, to be published on Sunday, in the popular Soviet magazine *Ogonyok*. They represent his first considered assessment of the recent upheavals in Eastern Europe and emphasize that Moscow may now regard freedom and democracy, rather than ideological orthodoxy, as the chief force working for stability.

In the same interview, Mr Shevardnadze warns the West that the failure of *perestroika* could precipitate the collapse of the Soviet Union or, more probably, the seizure of power by a dictator. To prevent this, he says, moves towards a new security agreement for Europe must be speeded up and the Soviet Union must have internal stability of the sort that a strong executive presidency could give.

The interview will be published on the day that Mr Gorbachev puts forward his proposal for the executive presidency to the Central Committee, and is clearly intended to strengthen his position.

It also indicates that the Soviet Union is unlikely to stand in the way of further

reforms in Eastern Europe, and that Moscow has begun to revise its overall East European policy in the light of the new circumstances.

This follows a period when Moscow's policy seemed to veer uneasily between old ideas (keeping the Eastern bloc's trading group Comecon in line), emergency damage-limitation (the agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia), and confused inaction.

This week sees visits to Moscow by the Romanian Foreign Minister, who arrived yesterday (AFP) — The people accused of mounting three attempted coups in Berlin in 1988 have been arrested, the government paper *Pravda* reported. They include 19 soldiers implicated in a bid to win power in March of that year.

late on Wednesday, and the Hungarian Foreign Minister, who arrives later today. President Havel of Czechoslovakia was in Moscow two weeks ago.

The Hungarian visit is expected to result in the signing of an agreement on the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Hungary by the middle of 1991.

In Central Europe, only Poland has so far made no moves to have Soviet troops withdrawn. Both Warsaw and Moscow are watching the rapid progress towards German reunification with some unease, and Warsaw is playing a role in the negotiations.

Moscow benefits from Poland's concern. It allows the

Soviet Union to maintain a bargaining counter on the eve of the four-power talks on German unity, it means that the repatriation of troops can be done in phases, and it leaves a residual Soviet force in Eastern Europe at a time when the Warsaw Pact's front line in East Germany is shaky.

It is too early to judge how great a role historically Mr Shevardnadze has played in the Soviet Union's disengagement from Eastern Europe since he replaced the long-serving Mr Andrei Gromyko in 1985.

Certainly, Mr Shevardnadze — who is Georgian, not Russian, by birth — has shown himself unusually sympathetic to the plight of East European countries under Soviet rule.

Speaking at the Central Committee plenum last month, he tried to defend *perestroika* against the charge that it had created disorder in the Warsaw Pact.

It was not *perestroika* that had destroyed the political structure of Europe, he said, but the will of nations who had refused to reconcile themselves to force.

After the Second World War, the democratic forces that had collaborated with the communist parties in the name of anti-fascism, freedom and democracy were forced out of the coalition governments of the countries of East and Central Europe, and regimes of personal power called "dictatorships of the proletariat" established instead, he said.

KGB set to employ sacked Stasi men

By Our Foreign Staff

The Soviet KGB was waiting in the wings as East Germany yesterday formally dismissed more than 100,000 informers who used to eavesdrop on friends and workmates for the hated Stasi security police.

West German security sources said the KGB was hurrying to take over East Germany's spy network before free elections on March 18 make it impossible.

"Files and technical equipment of the former Stasi (state security) police are currently being turned over to Soviet hands in East Germany," a source quoted by Reuters said yesterday.

Specialists in electronic intelligence could be put to work at Soviet military bases, which will most likely remain on East German territory for the foreseeable future despite the rush towards reunification, the sources said.

They believed the KGB would take over intelligence staff at Stasi headquarters to run a several thousand strong spy network. "A sensitive gap in Soviet intelligence would be

created if East German espionage ceased to function as a result of unification," one source said.

A citizens' committee has spent the last two months dismantling the Stasi, which had 85,000 full-time employees. About three-quarters of them have found other jobs or joined East Germany's lengthening unemployment lines.

In Moscow, a new independent news agency said yesterday that the KGB had warned the Supreme Soviet it would act to protect socialism and accused Kremlin leaders of failing to do so.

Postfactum agency said wording of a KGB appeal circulated to members of the Soviet parliament suggested the security force was dominated by hardliners.

Diplomats say East Germany's highly efficient intelligence and counter-espionage networks have continued to operate since Stasi was disbanded, though West German intelligence reported some spies turning themselves in.

Trade fears split Sajudis on independence timing

From Anatol Lieven, Vilnius

The Lithuanian national movement, Sajudis, appears divided on the proposal to make a unilateral declaration of Lithuanian independence as soon as the republic's new supreme soviet meets this weekend.

As became clear at a meeting of the Sajudis Seima or assembly yesterday, many members are afraid that Lithuania is getting too far ahead of the change in the other Baltic republics and that it is economically vulnerable to pressure from Moscow.

The likelihood that such pressure will be exerted was increased by President Gorbachev's statement on Tuesday that if Lithuania left the Soviet Union it would have to pay back 21 billion roubles (£21 billion) in Soviet investment and in penalties for "breach of contracts" under the Soviet economic plan.

An article in the *Tiesis* newspaper on Wednesday asked "Has the economic blockade already begun?", noting a squeeze on invest-

ment and raw materials. In private, some Sajudis members have said that it will be wiser to wait until Latvia and Estonia have reached a point where they can act together with Lithuania, and until unrest elsewhere in the Soviet Union has hampered Moscow's ability to act.

The other argument for delay is that Sajudis has not reached agreement on three crucial issues: the choice of Lithuania's president, the composition of the new government, and the question of whether Lithuanian deputies should continue to attend the Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

Many Sajudis deputies regard their presence as highly important both to negotiate with Moscow to seek support from other Soviet republics.

But Professor Kazimieras Antanavicius, the Social Democrat leader, asked yesterday how Lithuania could simultaneously declare full independence and go on sending deputies to the parliament of a "foreign" state.

The Social Democratic

members of Sajudis appear to form the core of resistance to a "premature" move on independence. Professor Antanavicius noted yesterday that "nobody has been talking about the state of the economy — which isn't surprising, — there is not a single economist on the committee which is working on the declaration of independence."

Mr Vytautas Landsbergis Sajudis's chairman, said in the Seima yesterday that "the struggle for independence is reaching its culmination", and that preparations for what is called "this fateful step", were being made by a number of Sajudis committees, which were working on the draft declaration of independence.

The decision to declare independence has been taken by a majority of the caucus of Sajudis deputies in the supreme soviet, who number 9 out of the 116 so far elected — 26 seats remain to be filled.

It is clear, however, that Sajudis could enter the new supreme soviet in a state of considerable division.

CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Moscow tries to calm Arab anxiety over new exodus

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

The Kremlin's dilemma over the emigration of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel was underscored yesterday when a Soviet envoy met the Saudi Foreign Minister on the issue, despite the absence of diplomatic ties between Riyadh and Moscow which were broken by Stalin in 1938.

Diplomatic sources said that Mr Vladimir Polyakov, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, flew to Riyadh to meet Prince Saud al-Faisal in an attempt to assuage Arab fury and to clarify the Soviet position, which has strained its ties in the Arab world.

The expected arrival of some 300,000 Soviet Jews in Israel over the next few years has been condemned by all Arab nations as detrimental to the peace process and to regional security. The sensitivity of the exodus has been increased because many of the new arrivals are feared likely to settle on Arab land occupied by Israel in 1967.

The Soviet initiative in Saudi Arabia reflected both the desert kingdom's clout in the Arab world and fears in Moscow that Arab anger may spill over to more than mere words unless the Kremlin takes action to try to reduce the flood of Jewish emigrants. The Soviet Union has avoided implementing an agreement for direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flights that should have gone into effect on New Year's Day. It is also said to be encouraging Soviet Jews to live elsewhere than in Israel, and to be seeking United Nations-backed guarantees that Jewish migrants would not settle on occupied land.

The diplomatic sources said Prince Saud would be relaying the Soviet view to the 22 Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis next week.

Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, the Emir of Bahrain, said that the issue of the

Soviet-Jewish influx should be addressed with the concerned parties "with the language of interests...for condemnation alone does not suffice". He added that an "Arab strategy" must be drawn up.

Earlier this week about 2,000 Muslim fundamentalist students marched on the Soviet Embassy in Algiers to protest against the wave of emigration. They shouted slogans against President Gorbachev and denounced "the repression of Muslim peoples in the Soviet Union".

In an attempt to rally Western support King Hussein of Jordan this week travelled to Paris and London. Mr Marwan Kassem, his Foreign Minister, told a Jordanian newspaper: "I do not think we have faced a more serious issue since the 1930s." He was referring to Jewish immigration into British-mandated Palestine.

At Moscow's request, the Security Council is due to debate the issue later this month. A joint communiqué issued in Cairo yesterday by President Mubarak of Egypt and President Ben Ali of Tunisia, said that the movement of the East Bloc Jews to Israel had "negative effects on the chances of peace and security for all peoples and states in the region".

Assad attack: President Assad of Syria, one of Moscow's staunchest Middle-East allies, yesterday delivered a speech denouncing the recent changes sweeping Eastern Europe as a boon to Israel and calling for a holy war "as long as time" against the Jewish state. (Christopher Walker writes).

He said: "Let us now perceive that Israel was the first beneficiary, among all nations of the world, of the international changes that have taken place," adding that socialist countries once opposed to Israel "Zionists are now active everywhere".

New crusade preached at the Wall



West Berlin — The Rev Billy Graham giving a religious brochure to an East German guard near the Brandenburg Gate yesterday. He is to hold a meeting in front of the Reichstag building tomorrow. The US evangelist is bringing his crusade for Christianity to the Berlin Wall to fill the spiritual void left by retreating communism, he and German

religious leaders said yesterday (AP reports). Dr Graham told reporters that the events of Eastern Europe had lessened the danger of nuclear confrontation, but in its place had appeared new threats of "hedonism, materialism and self-gratification". He said many among the masses repressed by communism were ready to heed his message. "A few

weeks ago President Havel of Czechoslovakia, in an address to the United States Congress, declared that the salvation of the world lies not in sick political slogans about freedom and democracy, but rather in the human heart. I agree," Dr Graham said. He felt that Germany "was on the verge of a spiritual awakening".

Czechoslovakia's budget

Prague balks at subsidy cuts

From Peter Green, Prague

As Czechoslovakia's Government continues its economic reforms, it yesterday approved a 420 billion crown (\$16.8 billion at the official "business" rate) draft budget, but admitted it lacked the political courage to raise the prices of subsidized consumer goods. The new budget shows a surplus of five billion crowns, reversing last year's 15 billion crown deficit.

Announcing the latest step towards reforming the country's sickly economy, Mr Václav Klaus, the Finance Minister, said Czechoslovakia hoped to join the International Monetary Fund by September.

He released few details of the budget cuts, but indicated that most consumer subsidies would remain untouched for now. "Possibly we lack some of the political courage needed to say we cannot continue price subsidies," he said.

He admitted, however, that the Government was merely postponing the inevitable. "We do not have good prices, but if we do not do it (price reform) soon, we will have to pay for it later."

Overall, Mr Klaus said, the budget reduced wage and price subsidies by 14 per cent, with subsidies to state enterprises down 10.7 per cent. Subsidies to farmers have dropped 13 per cent. "Our results are not heroic, but they are not bad," he added.

Government administration costs were cut by 5 per cent, but Mr Klaus said that,

in its first two months, the new Government had exhausted this year's travel budget, adding: "Our predecessors travelled in a year what we do in a month, especially the Foreign Ministry."

Announcing the nomination of Mr Dusan Triska, his close personal adviser and a radical advocate of the free market, as head of a new office for privatization, Mr Klaus called for debate on the question, saying there would be

Budapest (Reuters) — Virtually all Soviet land forces and the Soviet Air Force will have been withdrawn from Hungary by the end of May next year, Hungarian defence leaders said yesterday. Troops will leave by the end of February, and the air force will follow them within three months, the army chief of staff said.

limits to what would be sold. "No one would want to privatize railways or water distribution," he said.

Repeating the Government's blueprint for privatization, Mr Klaus said the first businesses to be freed from state ownership would be small shops, services and workshops. The situation for middle-sized enterprises would be "very confused" and they would first have to be converted to "privatizable" form.

He also repeated that certain sectors of the economy would be open to foreign ownership.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Unesco steps up wages bill again

Paris — Señor Federico Mayor, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is creating 44 senior posts at a cost of \$6.2 million (£3.8 million) (Susan MacDonald writes). The fresh revelation of the creation of 20 more posts than previously learnt virtually puts paid to any hope that Britain — which is reviewing the decision to leave Unesco four years ago — might rejoin. The 44 jobs include the upgrading of 22 senior positions.

A Western diplomat said Unesco continues under Señor Mayor, as under his predecessor, Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, to be an ideal organization for well-paid jobs. According to him, it is the only UN organization to pay senior officials an additional \$200 (£121) daily allowance when they are on trips away from HQ. Letters, page 13

Nuclear ban U-turn

Wellington — In a staggering policy reversal, New Zealand's opposition National Party yesterday adopted the Labour Government's anti-nuclear policy, which bans nuclear armed and nuclear powered ships from the New Zealand's ports (Richard Long writes). Mr Donald McKinnon, the deputy opposition leader, immediately resigned as his party's defence spokesman, saying he could not with any credibility sell such a policy change. Eleven MPs in the 40-strong caucus are understood to have opposed the change.

Mongolian deal near

Peking — Mongolia's ruling communist party yesterday appeared to be nearing a compromise with anti-government hunger strikers demanding the resignation of the Politburo (Catherine Sampson writes). Thousands took to the streets in Ulan Bator to back the demand. Eight more dissidents were reported to have joined the hunger strike begun by 10 others on Wednesday in Sukhbaatar Square. The Prime Minister, Mr Dumaagiyn Sodnom, said the Government was ready to work with the opposition, and one of the hunger strike leaders said the Government had shown good faith.

Reporter's trial starts

The trial started in Baghdad yesterday of Mr Farzad Bazoft, aged 31, the Iranian-born reporter on *The Observer* who is accused of spying for Israel, and Mrs Daphne Parish, aged 52, a British nurse charged with helping him (Hazhir Teimourian writes). A surprise development was the appearance of an unnamed third co-defendant, an Iraqi citizen. As expected, no British lawyers were allowed to help the accused, nor were journalists permitted to observe. The trial was adjourned until Saturday.

Clashes in Kashmir

Srinagar — Hundreds of Muslims yesterday shouted Islamic slogans and demanded independence for Kashmir as a delegation of political leaders, including Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister, arrived to try to end the unrest. The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front had earlier called for people to congregate in mosques and prepare for mass demonstrations (Coomi Kapoor writes). Paramilitary forces fanned out over the city to enforce the curfew. At least two civilians were killed and two injured in an exchange of firing between militants and security forces.

Police victims' \$76m

New York (AP) — A state jury has found the city of New York and five police officers guilty of using excessive force, and awarded \$76 million (£46 million) to two men who said they were shot at and beaten in a case of mistaken identity. The jury also found the defendants guilty of negligence, false arrest and malicious prosecution.

KISS THE TURPS GOODBYE.

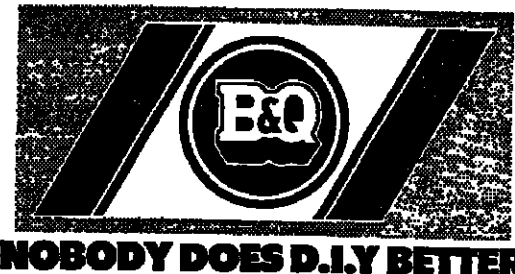


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Coup leader defiant as Kabul claims air base recapture

By Zahid Hussain in Karachi and Our Foreign Staff

President Najibullah of Afghanistan said yesterday that 25 civilians had been killed and more than 150 wounded when air force rebels bombed Kabul for 20 hours in a coup attempt, while confusion continued to surround the whereabouts of the coup leader.

General Shahmawaz Tanai, the former Defence Minister, claimed in a tape delivered to the anti-government Mujahidin coalition yesterday to be inside in Afghanistan and continuing to fight.

But according to reports in Pakistan, General Tanai and other defected generals of the Kabul regime were being kept under strict security near Peshawar, where they had been seen by President Ismail Khan and General Aslam Beg, the Pakistan Army's Chief of Staff.

In Kabul, President Najibullah parried reporters' questions on whether he knew General Tanai's whereabouts. But the Afghan leader said his forces had recaptured General Tanai's stronghold, Bagram military air base, north of the capital.

Asked about casualties among loyalist troops, President Najibullah said they were "a little less" than civilian casualties, but said he could not give figures yet.

Tuesday's coup attempt caused far greater damage than any recent Mujahidin attack on the capital. More than 40 bombs hit the main government area of Kabul in four hours on Tuesday and sporadic bombing continued until Wednesday evening. The

presidential palace was hit several times.

President Najibullah also announced the setting up of two special courts to try military rebels.

The tape from General Tanai was delivered to the Islamabad office of the news agency of the Mujahidin government-in-exile. In it General Tanai said: "I am inside Afghanistan... We have risen up and our struggle will continue."

Mujahidin sources said that General Tanai had flown to Pakistan briefly on Wednesday and talked with several

Kabul airport has reopened and Soviet aircraft, believed to be carrying arms, have flown to the Afghan capital, the BBC reported yesterday (Our Foreign Staff writes). The situation at Bagram air base, north of Kabul, was unclear.

guerrilla groups who have been fighting the Soviet-backed Government which seized power in a 1978 coup. He had then returned to Afghanistan with the guerrillas, they added.

General Tanai's flight from Afghanistan came after repeated government claims that the coup attempt had been crushed, and Kabul was yesterday returning to normal.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, a foreign affairs spokesman said that only a few of the rebel officers had surrendered to the Kabul Government.

Although Pakistan has firmly denied Kabul's charges that it was involved in the

coup attempt, observers believe that Islamabad could well be pushed into actively supporting the rebels. There are indications that elements in the Pakistan Army are pressing Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, to extend military support to the rebels.

Pakistan's Afghan policy, which in the past was conducted by the Inter-Services Intelligence, an intelligence wing of the Army, is not run by General Beg. But Miss Bhutto and the Foreign Ministry seem to have little say in the country's Afghan policy.

General Beg is determined to see a substantial military gain by the Afghan resistance against the Kabul regime this summer, hoping to force President Najibullah to step down. Observers say that if this fails there will be pressure from the United States for a negotiated settlement on a future transition government in Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials were trying to persuade the Afghan interim government of the Peshawar-based Mujahidin coalition to support the coup attempt.

Pakistani officials also believe that the Kabul regime's advantage in air power was neutralized by the defection of the Afghan Air Force to the coup leaders. In this situation, the officials believe, the Afghan resistance might be able to capture Jalalabad or another important Afghan city.

However, a greater Pakistani involvement also carries the danger of wider regional conflict.

Homeland discontent flares into violence



Street protest: Demonstrators demanding the resignation of the President of Bophuthatswana set up blazing barricades in the township of Ga-Rankuwa.

Rioters pin their hopes on ANC

From Gavin Bell
Ga-Rankuwa
Bophuthatswana

Mr Joe Motsepe surveyed the ruins of a post office opposite his house here and explained why Bophuthatswana had joined Ciskei, Transkei and Venda in a revolt against their illusory independence.

"What makes people angry is that they were forcibly incorporated into this so-called state... We are all South Africans, and if there are going to be negotiations on making our country better for everybody, we should not be left out," he said.

Acrid smoke is still drifting from burnt-out local government buildings and the remnants of barricades littering the streets of Ga-Rankuwa, where at least seven people were shot dead and 500 were injured in clashes with Bophuthatswana security forces on Wednesday.

Simmering discontent with the Bantustan system and with administrations deemed corrupt and inefficient exploded in an orgy of violence when local troops and police opened fire on tens of thousands of people who were outside the chief magistrate's offices to present a petition of grievances.

Within minutes the town was in flames as mobs set fire to rent offices, banks and post offices, and blocked streets with boulders and burning tyres against the armoured vehicles pursuing them. The

scene yesterday was like Belfast after a bad night.

The relative calm was disturbed by sporadic explosions as troops enforcing a state of emergency fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse gatherings, but no further casualties were reported. Anger flared in several areas as security forces searched homes for looted goods.

Mr Motsepe said people were incensed by a recent declaration by President Lucas Mangope that Bophuthatswana, a jigsaw puzzle of seven separated tracts of land, would remain an independent nation for the next hundred years. "He is like Idi Amin, he doesn't care for the people, but I don't give him much longer. He stays, it's just the kicking of a dying horse."

Mr A.C. Greyling, the chief magistrate, gestured towards a burnt-out lorry outside his office and said: "That's what started it. We told the crowd to disperse after delivering their petition, but suddenly the vehicle went up in flames and then the security forces

fired tear gas and warning shots over their heads. If the police had not been here yesterday, I would have been killed."

Mr Greyling, a white South African, said the petition complained about housing, transport, health services and high electricity tariffs, and demanded the resignation of Mr

Johannesburg (AFP) - Two right-wing extremists, Fanie Goossens and Cornelius Lottering, allegedly part of a plot to kill President de Klerk and four ministers, escaped from a jail lorry here yesterday, police said.

Mangope and a referendum on the homeland's future.

In the casualty ward of Ga-Rankuwa hospital, a few yards inside South African territory, victims of the strife contradicted Mr Greyling's account.

John, a laboratory technician being treated for torn ligaments sustained in fleeing the security forces, said they had opened fire without warning before the lorry was set

ablaze. "The Bophuthatswana Government is very cruel on us, and the people who can't get work in South Africa are always crying."

"We have low wages, high rents and no social facilities. We need trade unions, but they are banned. Mangope said on television the police have a right to kill. How can a President say that?"

Dr Hein McCarthy, the medical superintendent, said 90 per cent of the casualties had been the result of gunfire. Five people died on arrival and two who died later appeared to have been killed by live ammunition.

Mr Motsepe is encouraged by the initiatives of President de Klerk and the prospect of negotiations with the ANC.

"I think what Mr de Klerk is doing is very nice. It's good, and I think there will be a new South Africa like he said, but the homelands separate us from our own people. I am not an ANC activist but I sympathize with them, and I think if they could come here everything would be clear." As the

violent unrest spilled over into black townships in South Africa yesterday, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, said he had informed the military ruler of Ciskei that the maintenance of peace and stability was of paramount importance.

The first task was to relieve poverty by implementing education, training and job-creation programmes, he said. A road-sign outside Ga-Rankuwa points an end to the force of tribal independence. "Bophuthatswana Border Post" is obscured by the slogan "Viva ANC".

● BISHO, CISKEI: Mr Lennox Sebe, the ousted President of Ciskei, was to be offered a chance to stay in South Africa when he arrived in Johannesburg from Taipei early today, Mr Botha said.

The Foreign Ministry in Cape Town said Mr Botha had agreed with Brigadier Josh Oupa Gqozo, the head of the new junta here, that Mr Sebe should be advised not to return to Ciskei, where he would be arrested.

Cambodian refugees flee again from battle zone

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Large numbers of refugees who returned to Cambodia recently are fleeing back to Thailand to escape a new offensive by forces of the Phnom Penh Government in north-west Cambodia.

International aid officials said some had returned to one refugee camp already, and up to 20,000 more people were waiting near the border. United Nations officials are advising them to cross the border into Thailand, where they will receive food and assistance.

Officials of the two non-communist resistance groups, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and the Sihanouk National Army, said more and more people were heading for the border from Thmar Pouk, the biggest town in the so-called liberated zone occupied by the resistance in

recent months. The official said 4,000 Vietnamese soldiers, with Phnom Penh forces, were preparing to attack the town.

Vietnam says it has withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia, but there is evidence that some have been sent back to help the government forces.

The return of refugees to their former camp inside Thailand created dismay among 140,000 refugees at Site 2, the biggest border camp. This was turned to panic by reports that Thailand was preparing to force all the refugees back into Cambodia.

The reports were later dismissed as untrue by Dr Suvit Yodmanee, the Government's chief spokesman. He said yesterday that "refugees would be forcibly repatriated. Thailand still adhered to the

policy that full-scale repatriation must wait until there was a ceasefire and a political settlement in Cambodia.

No refugee camps would be closed, he said, but the Thai Government was planning to establish neutral camps controlled by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, where the refugees could ask to go.

Under the UN plan for repatriating the 300,000 refugees on the border, 10,000 a week would be returned by road after a political settlement had been reached.

However, substantial numbers have returned of their own accord as resistance forces gained control of more territory in recent months.

UN officials say the Khmer Rouge also forced people back against their will into the battle zone.

Alarm over Libyan 'chemical weapons'

US urges break-up of gas plant

By Martin Fletcher in Washington and Michael Evans in London

The United States has made it clear to Britain and other allies that Libya must be forced to dismantle its chemical weapons plant at Rabta, following US intelligence reports that production of mustard gas and Sarin nerve gas was continuing.

Officials from London, Bonn and Paris have all been in close touch with Washington because of growing alarm at the threat posed by the factory.

Britain supports Washington's position that the only satisfactory way of removing the threat is to have the plant dismantled. Foreign Office sources said yesterday that international inspections at Rabta would not be enough to guarantee an end to Colonel Gaddafi's chemical weapons ambitions.

However this appeared to clash with the West German Government's approach. Herr

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, has proposed that the European Community should press Colonel Gaddafi to allow outside inspections of the factory, which is 60 miles south of Tripoli.

West German companies helped build the plant, which Colonel Gaddafi has always insisted was for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals.

Libya denied again yesterday that it was producing chemical weapons and said it was ready to join international initiatives against chemical warfare, according to Tripoli Radio.

The radio, monitored by the BBC, quoted an "authoritative source" at the Libyan Foreign Ministry as saying the US administration had levelled false accusations.

Bonn believes that international inspections would be enough to force the Libyan

leader to cease chemical weapons production. Herr Genscher reportedly put this proposal to his West European counterparts on February 20.

Three days later Herr Juergen Ruffus, the West German ambassador in Washington, was summoned to the State Department. Mr Reginald Bartholomew, the Department's Under-Secretary responsible for chemical weapons issues, reportedly told him Herr Genscher's proposal was unacceptable.

A spokesman for the West German embassy confirmed yesterday that there was a disagreement between Bonn and Washington. He said his government took the view that Colonel Gaddafi would never agree to tear down the Rabta plant, but might give in to pressure for outside inspections.

One German diplomatic source said his country did not

have the diplomatic means to dismantle the factory.

A spokesman for the US State Department said: "Only dismantlement can insure that the facility stops producing chemical agents. We would rather concentrate on that goal than on any intermediate steps, including proposals for international inspection which Gaddafi could use to his advantage."

Senior British diplomatic sources confirmed the US reports that chemical weapons were being produced, although at present at a "relatively low rate". One source said: "We're all working hard to try and restrict further development at Rabta."

Yesterday an Israeli diplomatic source said: "We are concerned even more than others because Gaddafi has made it clear that Israeli would be the main target."

Leading article, page 13

Algerian's death stirs alarm at French police shootings

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Attention has been drawn again to the alarming trigger-happiness of the French police by the case of an Algerian man who was shot dead by a policeman in Marseilles while handcuffed and unarmed.

Saad Saoudi, aged 35, died while being taken to court by two policemen in a police car to face charges concerning a minor brawl.

Although details are sketchy, some facts stand out: six shots were fired and Saoudi died from a 38 bullet in the back of the neck at very close range. He was also hit in the back at least twice.

There will be a protest march outside Marseilles tomorrow, demanding justice in the Saoudi case.

According to the two officers escorting him, Saoudi had first tried to strangle the driver with his handcuffs while they were on the motorway. When the car skidded to a halt on the hard lane, he had forced his

way out and was running away when the shooting started.

Saoudi's family have no doubt what that version of events really means. "The police are lying; it was an execution and the bullet in the neck was a coup de grace."

His father, who formerly served in the French Army, yesterday initiated a legal action for voluntary homicide against the officer who admits to having fired all the shots, Jean-Claude Morin, aged 47.

Clearly mindful of the possible impact of this killing on racial tensions in Marseilles, the authorities have emphasized that there will be no cover-up.

The Marseilles police have opened an official investigation and yesterday M Morin was charged with causing fatal injuries.

That will certainly not stifle public protest, in Marseilles and elsewhere, about the problem posed by the increasing abuse of police firearms.

Under regulations governing the national police, guns can be used only in self-defence, or defence of a third party, when there is an immediate threat of death or serious injury.

On the face of it, the killing of Saad Saoudi, who was unarmed, raises the same worrying questions as a series of incidents stretching back three years in which people died at the hands of the police.

A case which involved the ferocious beating and subsequent death of a young Algerian student caught up in a demonstration in Paris, Malik Ousseine, brought angry crowds into the capital when the officers convicted of involuntary manslaughter received light and suspended sentences.

Meanwhile, by coincidence, the head of France's urban police forces this week circulated a message warning them against taking too many "liberties" with firearms.

Briton dies in blaze at restaurant

Frankfurt (AP) - Police believe arson caused the fire at a Chinese restaurant in Frankfurt in which Mr Christopher Annetts, a British engineer aged 46, was among 11 people killed. His French wife, Helene, celebrating her fortieth birthday, also died. Three of the dead were connected with US forces in West Germany.

False picture

Brussels - The European Commission is to sue Spain for allowing endangered species, including tigers, to be imported and photographed to publicize holiday resorts.

Police attack

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - Police used tear gas to break up orange and stone-throwing government workers protesting in Salta against federal economic policies.

Protest march

Ankara (AP) - About 1,000 Turkish journalists marched on Parliament to show solidarity after the assassination of Cetin Emec, a prominent liberal journalist.

Hostages well

Harare, Zimbabwe (AP) - Mozambique rebels say Mr Dudley Searle and Mr Dudley Stephenson, the Britons they are holding hostage, are well.

Riot control

Abolhar, India (AP) - Lorry loads of riot police were deployed here to control mobs angered by an Sikh attack in which 31 people died.

Onassis deal

Edgartown, Massachusetts (AP) - Mrs Jacqueline Onassis is to give Wampanoag Indians a plot of land and £60,000 for a tiny beachfront site, ending a 10-year dispute.

Second luxury hotel fire in Cairo underlines tourism fears

From Christopher Walker
Cairo

A fire yesterday at the famous Shepheard's Hotel on the banks of the Nile, Egypt's second hotel blaze in a week, has highlighted the lack of modern firefighting devices worrying many tour operators.

There were chaotic scenes in crowded central Cairo as firefighters and panic-stricken staff sought to control the blaze in a greasy ventilation duct which damaged the hotel's kitchens.

Fearing a repetition of last Thursday's disaster at the Heliopolis Sheraton in which 17 people, including four Britons, died, staff smashed huge plate-glass windows in the hotel's Regence Restaurant to let smoke clear soon after the fire broke out around 10am. Huge

clouds of smoke billowed over the 12-storey hotel, whose more illustrious predecessor was burnt down by nationalist rioters in 1952.

Mr Rick Abrams, an American tourist among the 407 registered guests, said he had heard no fire

● The one casualty was nearly crushed as 20 colleagues tried to put her in an ambulance ●

alarm and had been alerted by knocking on his bedroom door. He complained that he was then faced with a hail of glass as he rushed from the building. "It would have been very easy for us to have been killed by falling glass." Reporters were pushed and shoved by nervous

police outside the hotel as the authorities tried to minimize the incident for fear of the damage it might do to the \$2.4 billion tourist industry.

"There was no fire, there was no fire," insisted a black-uniformed officer standing in a pool of deep water from the hoses of five appliances as sirens wailed and a fire ladder stretched to the roof.

Mr and Mrs Brian Groome, a Nottingham couple who had come to take morning tea in the hotel, contradicted the officer. "Of course there was a fire. We saw it," said Mr Groome, who added: "There was also complete chaos among those trying to deal with it."

The one casualty, a housekeeper suffering from smoke inhalation, was nearly crushed as more than 20 shouting colleagues struggled to

put her into an ambulance. "I admit that we panicked," said Mr Mohammed Abul Naga, the general manager. "It was because of what happened at the Sheraton. In fact there was no need; our fire was out within 15 minutes."

Mr Abul Naga said that the government-owned hotel had neither water sprinklers nor smoke-detection devices. "They are part of our current renovation plan."

An Egyptian Government report has blamed inadequate safety measures for the high death toll at the 600-room Sheraton near Cairo airport. In both fires, the authorities have been swift to rule out arson, although rumours still persist about the Sheraton fire because of repeated threats by Islamic fundamentalists opposed to its nightclub and alcohol sales. Mr

Abul Naga said: "We are convinced that the fire at Shepheard's was accidental. There is no way that an outsider could have had access to start it."

Three hours after the fire had been doused, I discovered in a

● The panic-stricken staff appeared to have little idea about fire safety procedures ●

staircase repeated examples of naked wiring with no safety covering. Staff appeared to have little idea of fire safety procedures.

At another luxury hotel, the Cairo Meridien, management complained that Egypt's notorious red tape was holding up improvements

in fire safety equipment at the main hotels. They said that the Meridien had water sprinklers, but no smoke or heat detectors.

Mr Mohsin Ritad, the sales manager, said that the Meridien would like to improve its firefighting equipment. "But you have to obtain permission from the Egyptian customs to bring this advanced equipment in, and this is difficult. And the equipment is expensive."

The state-owned Middle East News Agency reported that a preliminary investigation showed that yesterday's fire was caused by an electrical short circuit in the ground-floor kitchen.

Major-General Fakhreddine Khalid, chief of Egypt's tourist police, said: "There is absolutely no suspicion of foul play."

March 8 1990

PARLIAMENT

Ministers 'must act against these proven liars'

Mr Neil Kinnock strongly attacked the Government for its failure to act against the "proven liars" now running the House of Fraser.

The Leader of the Opposition insisted at question time that this was an "open invitation" to similar dishonesty by others.

Opening the exchanges, Mr Kinnock asked why it was thought to be against the public interest to seek disqualification of the Fayed brothers.

Mrs Thatcher replied that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr Nicholas Ridley) had made a statement yesterday in which he had answered many of these questions in detail. Prosecution was a matter for the prosecuting authorities. Other powers were for the regulatory authorities.

As far as a quasi-judicial decision was concerned, that was for Mr Ridley. He had made it and answered to the House.

Mr Kinnock said that the *Financial Times* saw the real issue as one of public confidence in the business and financial system.

"If her Government will not use its powers to disqualify directors who have been shown to be guilty of deliberate and persistent dishonesty, in what circumstances will she ever take action?"

Mrs Thatcher replied that this was a quasi-judicial decision for Mr Ridley. She referred to the replies given

HOUSE OF FRASER

yesterday, "I rest my own replies upon this."

Mr Kinnock: The Government has powers to act and by their inaction they are completely contradicting the public interest in honest conduct of business in Britain.

Is that not an open invitation to others who could employ the same dishonesty as that shown by the directors of Harrods? Why does the Government so favour those who are very guilty when they happen to be very rich?

Later, during business questions, Mr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, said that there was widespread astonishment and anger, not only in the House, about the report on the Harrods scandal.

It was in everyone's interest, not least the Government's, to commission an inquiry to be conducted in Parliament. There should be an early debate on the report.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the Commons, said that he understood that the Select Committee on Trade and Industry was now examining the investigative powers of the Department of Trade and Industry under the Companies Act. It might be appropriate to await the committee's report before continuing.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bols-

over, Lab) said that the Government was afraid of holding a debate because of the connection with the Sultan of Brunei. In 1985 when the pound was 1.08 to the dollar, and sinking to the floor, the Sultan of Brunei found £5 billion to prop up the pound.

The result was the Government decided to lay off the House of Fraser and its surrogates, the Fayed brothers. That was the reason for the cover-up.

Sir Howe said that if publication of the report yesterday was a cover-up, Mr Skinner was more extraordinary than he thought.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings and Rye, C), chairman of the Select Committee on Trade and Industry, said that the terms of reference of that committee did not include, and were not intended to include, a study of any particular company and its problems.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Oak, C), many of us thought yesterday that Mr Ridley was rather too languid and laid back about the Harrods report.

"The idea that this 750-page report should be sent to a select committee when the chairman of the committee himself says 'it ain't me, gov', is not really on."

"If we can debate for six hours the conduct of one MP, why can't we spare three hours to talk about the conduct of these discreditable and loathsome creatures?"



Violent poll tax demonstrations condemned

The violent demonstrations against the poll tax were roundly condemned at question time by the Prime Minister and by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition. Mrs Thatcher and Conservative MPs also attacked those Labour MPs urging people not to pay.

The exchanges were opened by Mr Timothy Devlin (Stockton South, C), who asked Mrs Thatcher to confirm that Militant violence had no part to play in the fixing of the community charge.

Mrs Thatcher said that any violence or intimidatory demonstrations, organized she understood, from an excellent article in *The Times* today, by the militant left, were a negation of democracy.

It was quite wrong for any MP to suggest that people should disobey the law and not pay the community charge.

Mr Kinnock said that he agreed with everything she had just said, "as I have for very long made very clear."

There were loud Labour protests when Mrs Thatcher asked: Will he also therefore condemn the 28 Labour MPs who are urging that people should not pay the community charge?

Mr Andrew Mitchell (Gedling, C): Will the Prime Minister utterly condemn the disgraceful and dangerous scenes we have witnessed in various council chambers across the country, orchestrated by the left-wing groups and encouraged by those Opposition MPs who decline to obey the law?

Mrs Thatcher said that the scenes were precisely the same kind of violence seen at Grunwick, in the coal strike and

PRIME MINISTER

at Wapping - the negation of democracy.

"I also condemn anyone, particularly members of this House, who chose to disobey the law by refusing to pay the community charge. That is totally wrong and means that Labour MPs only obey the law if they make it and not when another government does."

Mr Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, urged the Prime Minister to think again about the advantage of local income tax. It was fairer, more efficient, simpler and enjoyed the same level of accountability for local government as she had to answer to nationally.

Mrs Thatcher said that local income tax would be just about the most unpopular and bureaucratic way of raising money for local authorities.

Later, during business questions, Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, said that Mr Kenneth Baker, chairman of the Conservative Party, had been creating bogus figures.

Since so many Conservative MPs appeared to have changed their mind on the poll tax, there should be an early debate.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, said that such a debate would be another opportunity for asking why 28 Labour MPs were trying to incite people not to pay a tax put in place by the House.

Mr David Nield (Coventry South East, Lab): It's 31, not 28 (protests and laughter).

Tony Marlow, page 12

Food safety code of practice promised

The Government is to establish a code of practice to "even up" enforcement of food safety law by local authorities. Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said when he moved the second reading of the Food Safety Bill.

"This will mean better enforcement, better codes of practice, better training for enforcement officers and more enforcement officers in some local authorities."

An extra £30 million would be added to the revenue support grant next year to enable councils to do the job properly.

That would be paralleled by providing tougher powers for enforcement officers. They would have power to remove from shelves whole batches of food about which there was concern.

It was little help to say: "We will take a week or two before we can stop someone poisoning his customers."

He was concerned in the event of a serious danger, possibly an outbreak of epidemic proportions, that there should be simpler and clearer emergency control orders. These were provided for in the Bill.

He was worried that there had been cases where local authorities had been unable to protect the public because they did not know all the food outlets. In future, food businesses would give their local authority a few

key details. A licensing system would be set up to cover establishments where irradiation was carried out. Irradiation would be allowed only under strict conditions.

Radiation was a valuable adjunct to the armory in the fight against food poisoning and was supported by international organizations. If people did not want irradiated food, they would not need to buy it. He was not in the business of forcing people.

Irradiated food was already on sale in 20 countries, although in many it was not as clearly defined as it would be in the United Kingdom. There was no question of anyone being forced to buy irradiated food because it would be clearly labelled and people would choose.

"There is no danger to health. I shall certainly buy and eat irradiated food myself and so will my family. Those who do not want it need not do so."

"What do those who want to remove choice say? They say that because some do not want it, nobody should have it, because some are wholly biased to the scientific evidence, everybody else should be caught by it."

"That is the Jehovah's Witness approach to science. It is the idea that, however preposterous a proposal is, everybody has got to accept it because of a small group who happen to take a particular view."

Browne is suspended for twenty days

The motions and amendments

The House carried without a vote Sir Geoffrey Howe's main motion, to endorse the findings of the Select Committee on Members' Interests in respect of the allegation against Mr Browne, of resignation to register an interest, and accordingly to suspend him for 20 sitting days, including suspension of his salary.

It had first rejected by 237 votes to 67 an amendment by Mr Donald Thompson (Caldar Valley, C) not to suspend Mr Browne. An amendment by Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab)

required. Nothing convinced him more of the need for it than the easy way they had discussed Mr Browne.

"The Palace of Westminster is in danger of degenerating into a market place where influence is traded for favours, backhanders and patronage." It was time to turn the moneylenders out of the temple.

Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said that Mr Browne had had to face all the publicity and a report of the select committee in very clear terms. His constituents knew about every episode in detail. It was now for them to make up their minds whether they wanted him to be an MP.

Mr Browne had apologized and that should be accepted. The Commons was always magnanimous to any minister or MP who recognized his errors and apologized.

to substitute a reprimand by the Speaker was lost without a vote and a move by Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab), calling on Mr Browne to resign was rejected by 254 votes to 33. An amendment by Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab), which would have increased the suspension to three months, was rejected by 189 votes to 111.

The House then carried without a division a motion calling for further study by the select committee of issues concerning MPs' outside interests.

If you declared more detail where did it stop? He served on the international review board of the accountants, Arthur Andersen, who collected £32 billion in fees from many clients.

He never took part in a debate on Lloyd's because he was a name in the Outright syndicate, but he could tell the House in confidence that the losses were considerable. "They are not going to drive me out of the House of Commons. They might very well keep me in."

Mr John Biffen (North Shropshire, C), a former Leader of the House, said that one of the least happy aspects of the case was the trial by tabloids of Mr Browne. It had made the Shropshire luminary, Judge Jeffreys, seem like a lilac social worker.

Mr Browne had admitted he had not declared interests

identified by the committee. It was not a question of guilt. The infringement was admitted. They had to judge the appropriate punishment.

But it was judgement of the motive that was critical. What had happened was not a consequence of sinister and mendacious judgement, rather more foolish and ill judged behaviour.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) said that those who had been suspended bore the scars for a long time. The House should be extremely careful before it went down that route.

They would not have been discussing this today if it had not been for the press references to the matrimonial problems of Mr Browne, or Mr Browne proposing a totally unacceptable Bill.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, said he would support the proposition that Mr Browne should be suspended for three months, but if this failed he would vote for the 20-day suspension. He did not want the MP expelled.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said there was a great deal of common ground. On both sides there had been great understanding of the anguish being suffered by Mr Browne. There was also wide acknowledgement of his apology and sympathy for his wife and family. Equally, there was widespread recognition of importance of upholding the proprieties.

MPs want 'Libya' inquiry

Conservative MPs demanded an urgent inquiry into newspaper reports about Mr Arthur Scargill and Libyan money for the National Union of Mineworkers' strike fund.

Mr Nicholas Bennett (Pembroke, C) said at business questions that there should be an immediate investigation into the misappropriation of £5 million by union officials. A debate should be held so that there could be an examination of why Labour MPs, including Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab), had not said a word about the scandal.

Mr Skinner said that the only Libya connection he knew of in the strike was the millions of barrels of oil that came from Libya to prop up the Tory Government.

Markings for UK eggs

The British Egg Industry Council was conducting a programme to mark individual small packs of British eggs, which was legal, and there was nothing to prevent Britain marking eggs with a regional characteristic, Mr David Curry, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during Commons questions on the poultry industry.

Homeless study

The Government is looking at the way in which the responsibilities of various government departments work in the prevention and relief of homelessness among single people, Mrs Thatcher said in a written Commons reply. She said that she had received a wide range of representations on aspects of homelessness in London.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Northern Ireland (Emergency and Prevention of Terrorism Provisions) (Continuance) Order and other Northern Ireland Orders. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: National Health Service and Community Care Bill, remaining stages. Friday: Debate on private member's motion on family policy.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be: Monday: Education (Student Loans) Bill, committee, first day. Tuesday: Coal Industry Bill, third reading. Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, report, second day. Wednesday: Debates on the gap between rich and poor and the social security system, on legal aid and on the House of Fraser report. Thursday: Courts and Legal Services Bill, third reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Entertainment (Increased Penalties) Bill and Representation of the People Bill, second readings.

Tories plead for minister to help them

By Nicholas Wood Political Correspondent

Rank-and-file Tory supporters said yesterday that the community charge would cost the party dearly in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election.

They appealed to Mr David Hunt, Minister of State for Local Government, to redouble his efforts to persuade the public of the merits of the new system of local government finance.

Mr Hunt conceded that there was a great deal of public uncertainty about the poll tax, blaming it on a campaign of disinformation by his opponents.

But he denied that the new tax would lose the Tories the Midlands seat where Labour is on course to overturn a 14,650 majority.

Meanwhile, Labour said that 1,900 teaching jobs would be lost if the Government charge-capped Labour-controlled Staffordshire County Council and forced it to meet a Whitehall spending target of £33 million below the amount needed to maintain services at present levels.

Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate, who is enjoying an opinion poll lead of about ten points over Mr Charles Prior, her Tory rival, said local people would welcome the opportunity to tell Mr Hunt that the poll tax was "grossly unfair".

Mr Hunt was brought face to face with local opinion as Tory campaign chiefs counter-attacked with a ministerial walk-about in the market town of Stone in the north of the constituency.

His courteous reception from predominantly elderly mid-morning shoppers was in marked contrast to the violence that has marked town hall protests over the poll tax this week, but he was left in no doubt of the importance of the issue that has eclipsed even high



A wavering Conservative voter in Stone gets some encouragement from Mr David Hunt (centre) and Mr Charles Prior.

mortgage rates in public concern.

Mrs Shirley Thomas, aged 34, of Stafford, a mother of three children and a Tory supporter, said she was baffled how the extra money would be spent.

Mrs Thomas, whose family's local authority bill is set to double, told Mr Hunt: "The council needs to tell us what is going on and why it is so much more. It hasn't been done at all."

"It is the Conservative Party that is suffering and therefore the Conservatives should do some explaining themselves."

Mr Anthony McNeeney, aged 68, from Stone, said that the new system was unfair and he was thinking of changing to Labour, although his roof tax was "going from the frying pan to the fire".

Earlier, Mr Jack Straw,

gun" and said he had never apparently made a speech in favour of the poll tax before becoming a minister.

Mr Hunt said that he had been able to dispel some individual misconceptions about the poll tax during his visit to Stone.

"I met one lady who felt she was worse off, but when we went through the figures, she was better off."

"I found another person who thought you had to pay rates as well as the community charge."

"Once we get down on the ground and explain the advantages of the new system and Labour's lack of an alternative, we are going to get a positive response in this constituency."

Earlier, the Tory camp's frustration at its inability to unsettle Mrs Heal's unruffled

but distinctly low-key campaign surfaced in remarks from Mr Gerald Howarth, the candidate's campaign minder.

The MP for Cannock and Burntwood said Labour was holed up, answering no questions and holding no public meetings.

Mrs Heal, a convert to multilateralism who left CND more than two years ago, has so far proved fire-proof to Tory attacks, retreating behind the policy review when pressed and not venturing far from the most literal interpretation of the party line.

For the past three days, her public programme has ended in mid-afternoon with the exception of one private evening meeting. Mr Prior has been spending much longer on the campaign trail.

From the dream to a nightmare

Beset by defections and arguments about the treatment of its subject, the future of *King*, the musical based on the life of Martin Luther King, hangs in the balance. Alan Franks traces the plot's twists and turns



The departing cast of a drama: Dr Maya Angelou, who has "doubts" about the book, Mr Richard Nelson, its author, and Mrs Coretta Scott King, the severe guardian of a legacy



The question now hanging over the embattled company of the London musical on the life of Martin Luther King, due to open at the Piccadilly Theatre on April 11, is whether this week's withdrawals from the project by its lyricist Dr Maya Angelou and members of the assassinated civil rights leader's family were the coincidence that they were first assumed to be.

Yesterday a well-placed source within the £2.5 million production, now three weeks into rehearsal, said that company members had become aware one week ago of Dr Angelou's doubts that the "book" supplied for the musical at short notice by white American author Mr Richard Nelson could do justice to the black martyr's memory. "She said that she would pass reservations on to Mrs Coretta King [Martin Luther King's widow]," said the source, "and this she has now done."

Mr Nelson, who has been nominated for an Olivier Award

for his play *Some Americans Abroad* at New York's Lincoln Centre, was brought in by the producers of *King* at the end of January after the black American writer Ron Milner had parted company with the project. Mr Milner's book, itself an adaptation of a play on the same theme, *Roads of The Mountain Top*, written three years earlier, had also failed to impress Dr Angelou.

Yesterday, Dr Angelou was not at her home in North Carolina and her publicist, Mr Armstrong Williams, said that she was travelling to the King Centre, in Atlanta, Georgia, which was founded in memory of Dr King.

Although Dr Angelou's contract with the show's London producers, H.M. Tennant, stipulates that she should attend rehearsals of *King*, she has not yet attended any of the current sessions in Vauxhall, south London. Although she has been working on the lyrics since June, she announced on Wednesday that she was regrettably removing her support, name and lyrics, "due to

irreconcilable differences". On the same day, a spokesman for the King family complained that the planned production "trivialized" the life of its hero, and fell short of historical authenticity.

Now the company, financed by two Swiss backers, Peter Hargitay and Hans Flury, appears determined not to make a crisis out of a drama. Mr Peter Wilson, the producer, said: "I have hardly spoken to the King estate. In fact our only talks have concerned details of Dr Angelou's travelling arrangements. They only let me know that she was intending to pull out a few hours before she did so. You might say that it was a brief notice period."

Nor did he wish to speculate on any legal action which the company might take. "All I would say is, even if she says she intends to withdraw her lyrics, she cannot actually do so, as they belong contractually to the joint venture."

Mr Hargitay believes the current difficulties are ones of "communication". He pointed

out that the show is still evolving in rehearsal, with every member of the cast "pink, black or yellow" able to make a contribution. "This is a very mature and motivated company, there have been no hysterical outbursts and no panic."

No member of the King family had so far seen a rehearsal, Mr Hargitay said. "I hope they will send someone to see it. Our doors are wide open, especially to Mrs King. This show is anything but a trivialization of her late husband's life."

There are now three unsolved plots across an already crowded stage. The first is whether the show can succeed without its celebrated lyricist and the relatives of its subjects. Second: will Dr Angelou manage to have her identity expunged from the venture. Third, and deepest precisely what is being objected to. So far there has been little more than vague moral rumbling.

The British composer of the score, Mr Richard Blackford, could scarcely stand accused of venality, or of a slapdash approach to racial sensitivities. He has spent the past six years working on the King project, during which time he has spent 18 months conducting intense research into the composition of gospel music in Detroit, studying the King archives in Atlanta, and attending the non-violent workshop which propagates the civil rights leader's working methods and ideology. He points out that out of a company of 76, 47 are black.

"We have portrayed our hero as he was a human being, and thus imperfect, as are all human beings, but a man whose manifest greatness could and did encompass his human frailties without in any way lessening his stature and his achievement," he says.

"There is absolutely no dirt or scandal, and I really don't know what they are taking exception to," says Mr Alistair Beaton, the British co-lyricist to whom the job

of completing the lyrics now falls. "I think there is a failure somewhere to understand the making of a thrilling drama."

Mr Simon Estes, the American opera singer who is to play Dr King, is also one of the producers of *King* and a friend of the King family. He said: "The rehearsals are going magnificently and we hope to get everything resolved regarding Mrs King." Mr Estes said he was greatly impressed by the work of the composer — but he admitted there might be "some validity" in Maya Angelou's reservations about the book.

Even in West End terms, *King* ranks as a major musical venture with the £2.5 million backing of Peter Hargitay and Hans Flury. Although it was only announced last year, Hargitay's interest in the project goes back three years. He is the head of a leading European public relations and consultancy firm and has been extending his involvement in the financing of films and musicals.

James Bone

GUARDING A LEGEND

Since her husband's murder, Mrs Coretta Scott King has become a severe guardian of his legacy. She has devoted her widowhood not to leading her own demonstrations, or leading her voice to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which Dr Martin Luther King founded, but to perpetuating his memory.

That she has done by building the 35,000 sq ft King Centre in downtown Atlanta, opened in 1982 after 14 years of fundraising. It has become a major tourist attraction — but at the same time attracted widespread criticism for doing little to help desperately poor blacks.

Mrs King, aged 63, has been accused of behaving like Black American royalty, earning her the nickname Her Widowship. She exercises personal control over all use of Dr King's speeches, letters, books and even his image, and spends much of her time personally scrutinizing even minor decisions at the centre. Criticism of her dynastic ambitions intensified with the appointment of her son, Dexter, as its president.

"She trained as a young woman to be a diva, and now she is a diva on the political stage," one critic told the *Washington Post* recently.

In the United States, Dr King's estate can use legal "rights of publicity" to control use of material about the civil rights leader. But such rights do not apply in Britain, the estate's lawyers say.

Dr Maya Angelou's objections to the show are apparently distinct from those of the King family. Although she liked the British composer Mr Richard Blackford, and admired his respect for Dr King, she felt that he had been surrounded by "amateur artists" and that the production had suffered.

Dr Angelou has earned a reputation as one of America's leading black writers with five volumes of autobiography, beginning with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which was made into a film.

WWF has bought part of the international debt of developing countries to help reduce the devastation of tropical forests.



WE'RE HELPING GOVERNMENTS CONVERT PAPER BACK INTO WOOD.

Massive debt. WWF were one of the first to recognise this as the major obstacle stopping third world countries protecting their natural resources.

In response, WWF organised "Debt for Nature Swaps". This is a process by which we buy, at a substantial discount, part of the outstanding debt of developing countries like Ecuador, Costa Rica, Zambia and Madagascar, or even arrange to write it off.

In return, the Government of that country agrees to help fund and implement more conservation projects.

We also help in other ways.

By working with 21 Governments and many of the world's Aid Agencies, we've set up ambitious schemes to preserve as much of the world's tropical forests as we can.

Many of these projects help local people manage the forest in new ways that benefit both themselves and the environment.

Already WWF's campaign to save one of Africa's oldest remaining rainforests, in Cameroon, is proving highly successful. The harvesting of food, medicine and the development of new industries are just some of the many projects already underway.

WWF's policy is to work with and influence the people who can bring about positive change, worldwide. Our approach has already proven successful, but we urgently need your support to continue.

You can help WWF by sending in a donation to help rainforests worldwide.

YES, I want to help WWF make a world of difference. I am over 18. I enclose my gift of £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £15 ☐ Other £

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order (made payable to WWF United Kingdom) or...

☐ Please debit this amount from my Access/Visa Card (delete as appropriate).

Card No.

Signed Date

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Address

Postcode

Tel No.

Please send to: WWF-UK, Dept P418 NCH, FREEPOST, Centre Courtyard, Corby, Northants, NN18 8ER.



Tournament of the Mind

1 LOGIC

You are looking at a 10-seater double-decker bus. It has five seats upstairs and five seats downstairs. Jane is seated directly below Richard and in front of eight people, including Nick. Pat sits in the seat directly behind Nick and directly below John. Kate sits at the very back, directly above Tony. Graham is seated directly in front of Sam and directly above Bob. Who sits directly in front of Tony?

2 DIAGRAMS

The following rules apply to this puzzle: You must land on every circle, but only once on each, before finishing on the circle marked F. Your method of movement from circle to circle is determined by the symbols within each circle — the number denotes number of moves, while the corresponding letter denotes the direction. C means clockwise, A means anticlockwise, I means in, O means out. So that you finish on F, on which circle should you start?

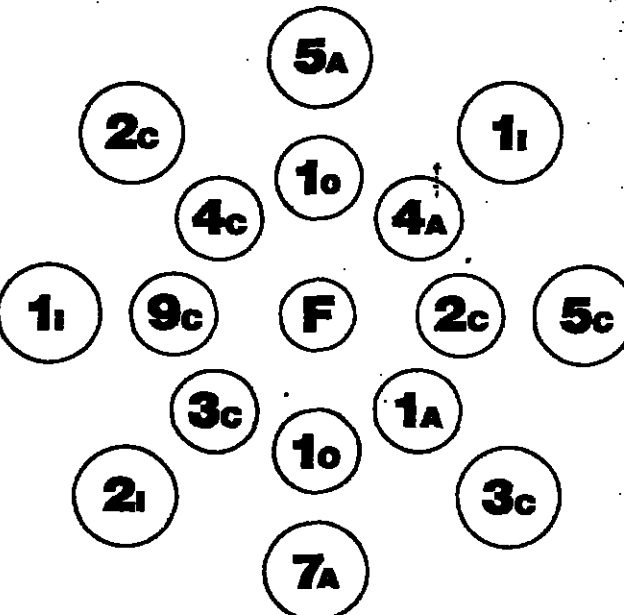
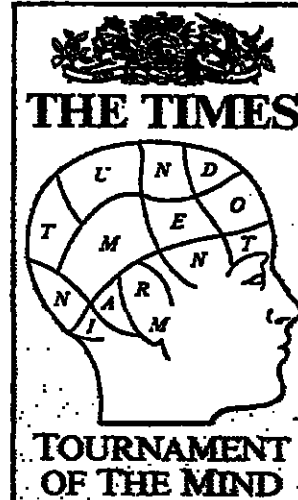
3 VERBAL

Which word of four letters may be placed between these two words so that when it is added to the end of the first word it creates another word and when it is added to the front of the second word it creates another word?

EYE (...) PARK

4 MATHS

You have a car with a leaking petrol tank. It began to leak the moment you set out on your journey and, at that time, you had 15 gallons of petrol in the tank. Three gallons of petrol have been leaking out per hour. You have been travelling at 45 miles per hour. Your car's usual petrol consumption is 30 miles per gallon. How many miles will you cover on your journey before the tank is dry?



MISCELLANY

1. The first use of the term, the "Iron Curtain", is accredited to whom?
2. When did the Children's Crusade begin?
3. What is the main colour of a Venetian gondola?
4. What is the capital city of Alabama, US?
5. In which year did Rodin create "The Kiss"?



ROUND 4 - ANSWERS

Cut out this coupon and keep your answers until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons published in *The Times*

PUZZLES

Answer 1 Answer 2

Answer 3 Answer 4

MISCELLANY

Answer 1

Answer 2

Answer 3

Answer 4 Answer 5

NAME

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FRIDAY PAGE

'Once again, the Jews become the pawns in the game. Will it never end?'

This is how I came to be born in England. One day in the late 19th century my great-grandfather was found floating in the Dnieper River with a knife in his back. My great-grandmother took this to mean she was no longer welcome to live outside the Jewish pale of settlement in Russia. She immediately sold off some religious artefacts, including the *tefillin* which once belonged to her husband's ancestor, a rather grand 16th-century rabbi by the name of Isserles.

With that money in hand she took her family to London's East End. I am eternally grateful for her display of impiety. When it comes to the 20th century, a family named Isserles couldn't have found themselves starting off again in a better place than Bethnal Green.

In spite of this, neither religion nor Zionism has ever interested me very much. Secular liberalism is my creed and my suitcases are packed and waiting under the bed, not labelled Jerusalem but ready to go wherever the thoughts of de Tocqueville, Burke or Montesquieu best illuminate the landscape. Still, even my lapsed sense of identity has been enraged by the current dilemma in which the Soviet Jews find themselves.

The threat of a new pogrom against Jews in the Soviet Union is

the flavour of the week in media stories. "Sky television uncovers new evidence of anti-Semitism", was the blurb this week on a late-night news show. The "evidence" turned out to be some rather routine footage of two Jewish families in Moscow saying they were scared of anti-Semitism, and the second-hand account of a woman who knew someone who had had the Star of David carved into her face by a gang of youths.

Awful stuff, no doubt. By now, there seems to be little question that there is a fast-rising tide of anti-Semitism in the USSR. As Nathan Scharansky pointed out in an interview with *The Times*, since the Russian people have no one to blame but themselves for the awful history they are now having to face, the Jews are a convenient scapegoat. Ironically, this anti-Semitism is being given an aura of legitimacy by the prominent role Jews played in creating the communist system in the first place. One can't deny that,

as in all large popular movements of this century, from Bakunin's anarchism to the anti-war movement (and with the possible exception of the Black Panthers), Jews have played a disproportionately large role. I suppose this includes Thatcherism as well.

The creation of scientific socialism began with a Jew named Karl Marx and did not end with the ice-pick in the skull of a Jew named Leon Trotsky. There were Jewish members of the intelligentsia in Russia, such as Martin Lyadov and Yakov Sverdlov. There were Jewish advisers to Stalin such as Kaganovich. In an analysis of the role of Jews in the revolutionary movements prior to the Bolshevik revolution, Jews were represented in very significant figures. This did not only apply, incidentally, to peaceful activities. In studies of Jewish representation in trials of terrorists from 1880 to 1890 in Russia, Jews represented nearly 15 per cent of the accused.

The role of Jews in the USSR's



BARBARA AMIEL

awful system ended a long time ago in the 1930s, but it is clear that among the old guard in both the USSR and the satellite countries, a number of Jews were attracted in disproportionate numbers to the cause, for much the same reason, I suppose, that a number of Cam-

bridge homosexuals were. A gifted outside group who feel they are not being offered a fair chance will always embrace a system that seems to be a saviour. Once this system turns into a monster, the association will be there, even if by then the system is the greatest persecutor of the Jews. It sticks. People will forever say that all our troubles are caused by these awful Jews.

But there is another, much darker aspect to what is going on in the Soviet Union. The causes of anti-Semitism are not as simple as the ultra-nationalism of Pamyat. Anti-Semitism and the threat of pogroms are not unhelpful to the interests of Mr Gorbachov. He is able to represent himself and his strong powers as the only alternative to disorder, pogroms and, most importantly, *fascism* — the great mantra that can be invoked without fear of argument.

Mr Gorbachov has turned out to be one of the Good Things of history. But our joy at seeing his

progress towards a reformed Soviet Union should not make us eyesless in Gaza. One of the ways in which the communists can get western public opinion — and Mrs Thatcher — on their side is if they represent themselves as the only force preventing pogroms *à la* tsarist Russia. However, we cannot be certain about the role the Communist Party itself is playing in fanning the flames of anti-Semitism.

There is a great emotional wave to be exploited here. Most of Anglo-American Jewry came to the West in order to escape the pogroms that left our great-grandparents floating in rivers with knives in their backs. Tell them that all that stands between new pogroms and a peaceful society is Mr Gorbachov, and they will lobby their governments to the death for Gorbachovism.

Meanwhile, the Jews become the pawns in the game. It is a sickening, vile game. And it is being played by the West as well as

the East. America has closed its doors to automatic refugee status for Soviet Jews, and so they can only flee now to Israel. The European Community and President Bush have threatened to cut off aid if Israel settles Soviet Jews on the "occupied territories". The Arabs are pressuring the Soviet Union to stop Jewish emigration. Hither and thither, it goes. The Jew, whose life and security Gorbachov and his opponents are bartering in their contest for power, simply becomes another pawn when he arrives in Israel. Will it never end?

What this means to me is that once again the Jews are in a tremendously difficult situation and I suppose this is why, fundamentally, the Zionists are not entirely wrong. This is what happens when you are a minority and don't want to assimilate. It occurs to me that on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, Jews greet one another with the phrase: "L'shana tova tikatevu?" It means: "May you be inscribed for a good year." Tradition has it that on that day, God inscribes the fate of all people and seals the inscription a week later on Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of mourning and atonement.

He must have his reasons, but once again, the inscription seems bleak and all around us the smell of betrayal is in the air.

No fanfare for a Commons man

Paleontologists please note: to judge by a debate in the Commons this week, Neanderthal man is alive and well in the dark and cavernous lobbies and the chamber of the Palace of Westminster.

On Tuesday Mrs Teresa Gorman, Conservative MP for Billericay, jibed: "There will always be Neanderthal man in the House, even if he comes from as close as Orpington," pointing at Orpington Conservative MP Mr Ivor Stanbrook, set to oppose her Bill to provide tax relief to working mothers employing home helps and childminders. Sure enough, in the debate Mr Stanbrook accused mothers who go out to work of being "selfish", adding that "they inflict psychological injury on their children as well as themselves".

"By Neanderthal," Mrs Gorman explains, "I mean someone who survives from a previous era, the traditional opponents of women going out to work who believe a woman's place is behind the kitchen sink. They harp on about the apparent complexity in the downfall of the family — yet throughout history most women have worked, it's not something new."

"Not that I think Ivor is brutal at all," she adds. "He's a very refined man, a sweet man. But those kinds of views really do belong to a different age."

This week an MP was branded a Neanderthal man. Who else fits the bill? Lesley Abdela reports

Fellow Conservative MP Mrs Edwina Currie, the mother of two daughters and author of a book due out this June titled *What Women Want*, says: "Ivor Stanbrook's views would have been right for 20 years ago, but things have moved on an awful lot since then. Of course Ivor Stanbrook is not a monster. In fact, I couldn't think of a nicer person to speak nonsense like that."

Conservative MP Robin Squire, married to Susan Fey, chief executive of the City Technological College Trust, is the very model of Nineties man. "Neanderthal? John Stokes [MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge] is probably the quintessential and best-known. But there are a surprising number in the House," he says. Mr Stokes readily admits: "I am a very traditional chap. I think it would encourage women to go out to work if they get tax advantages on child care."

Maria Fyfe, Labour's deputy shadow minister for women, agrees with Mrs Gorman's assessment of Mr Stanbrook, and adds two more names to the list: "Tim

Janman, MP for Thurrock, and John Carlisle, MP for Luton North."

Mr Carlisle in particular flouts Neanderthal views. Last November, in a letter to a senior 300 Group member, he wrote: "I feel gratified you have seen fit to ask me to support your aim at achieving 300 female Members of Parliament, but since I am of the opinion that women with certain exceptions have little to offer the House of Commons, I regret I must decline your invitation."

Some Neanderthal MPs are not quite as "sweet and gentle" as Mr Stanbrook. On February 21, Tony Marlow, Conservative MP for Northampton North, opposing a Bill to make rape in marriage a criminal offence in England and Wales, said: "If the good lady has a headache, would it be inconsiderate for the husband to proceed? If she had a bad headache, would it be rape?"

Six weeks ago Conservative MP Emma Nicholson put down an Early Day Motion congratulating Lady Howe on the Hansard Society Commission's report, "Women at the

Top". Her EDM asked the House to take note of the important conclusion "that there remain formidable barriers which prevent women from getting to the top".

Messrs Carlisle, Stanbrook and Janman at once put in an amendment, replacing Miss Nicholson's wording with: "This House is surprised at her [Lady Howe's] apparent ignorance of the fact that the comparative shortage of women in professional and public life is due not so much to male prejudice, as to the fact that most women believe rightly that the role of mother and homemaker to her family is more important, satisfying and valuable than the pursuit of individual interests incompatible with that role."

Hotfoot from taking part in tonight's final programme for the BBC television series *Move Over Darling*, Greenish SDP MP Rosie Barnes says: "Neanderthals? Ivor Stanbrook is the classic, Tony Marlow is another. But the man on the programme with me from a group called the Conservative Family Campaign, practically held up a garlic in one hand and a cross in the other whenever he had to address me."

She was referring to Stephen Green, press officer for the Conservative Family Campaign. "We believe it is far better for the children for a mother to stay at home and look after them," Mr Green



Faired: Ivor Stanbrook (left), who calls working mothers selfish, and Neanderthal man, to whom Teresa Gorman likens him

says. He lists among campaign members two MPs who voted against Mrs Gorman's Bill — Mr Stanbrook and Julian Brazier, the MP for Canterbury.

Although Mr Green says his group bases its beliefs on American research, he was unable to point to any specific example. He did, however, mention British child psychiatrist Lynn Barnett, who works at Exeter Health Authority Child Guidance Clinic. Mrs Barnett seemed surprised at being held up as a

guru to the Conservative Family Campaign. She would definitely support Mrs Gorman's Bill, she says, on the specific grounds that it would help mothers afford to pay for one-to-one child care.

"I'm certainly not saying mothers shouldn't go to work," Mrs Barnett states. "I'm saying I believe it is better for infants under two-and-a-half to have a permanent figure — she or he — or a substitute parent figure than to be in large groups."



In Tuesday's debate Mr Stanbrook stated unequivocally: "There is overwhelming evidence to show that most mothers of young children who go out to work thereby cause psychological injury to themselves as well as their children." Yesterday he said this "overwhelming evidence" was based not on any research document, but on his own life experience as a practising barrister, plus 20 years as an MP.

The size of the vote giving leave to bring in the Bill was truly surprising — 125 votes to 17. Under the House of Commons' abstruse procedures it is highly unlikely that the Gorman Bill will get any further. But the overwhelming vote in favour of the Bill may signal to Parliament and public alike that while Neanderthal man does still exist in the House of Commons, he may be a fast disappearing species, about to join his true paleolithic ancestor as an anthropological curiosity.

ECOSPHERE

News on environmental issues

Arctic beauty

Montagne Jeunesse's range of beauty products was originally designed to protect and beautify the skin; now it proposes to do the same for Antarctica. For every £10 spent on the company's nature-based, cruelty-free bath and skin products (available through House of Fraser stores, Asda, Gateway, pharmacies and health food shops), £1 will be donated to charities which are taking a special interest in the conservation of Antarctica, with the aim of establishing a World Wilderness Park.

To the rescue

Rescuing a ruin may at the moment seem like an impossible dream. A new Architectural Heritage Fund publication, however, describes how ordinary individuals can go about restoring an unloved neighbourhood building which has degenerated into an eyesore, to provide housing, a shop, or working accommodation. The book is £5 (inc p&p) from the fund at 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW.

Super market

"Environmental consciousness most definitely doesn't stop at Watford," says Sarah Howcroft of Verdant, a new green supermarket housed in an historic 18th-century building in the Lakeland town of Kendal. Local demand prompted Ms Howcroft, an experienced retailer, to open the store, with everything from a wholefood bakery and delicatessen to household

cleaning materials, long-life light bulbs, environmentally-friendly paints and recycled paper products. Verdant can be found at 34 Market Place, Kendal LA9 4TN (0539 741188).

Gaia lectures

"Gaia", the name of the Greek goddess of the earth, was the term chosen by ecologist Professor James Lovelock to explain the ability of the living world to create an environment which best favours its own stability, and to maintain that in the face of environmental change. This view is explored at a series of Gaia lectures by eminent environmentalists to be held at Imperial College, London, from March 21. Tickets are £4, or £7.50 including a buffet supper and wine, and can be booked through David Lorimer, director of Scientific and Medical Network, The Old School House, Hampnett, Northleach, Glos GL54 3NN (0451 60869). Tapes of all the lectures will be available through Conference Cassettes, Runnings Park, Croft Bank, West Malvern, Worcs, WR14 4BP (0684 892898).

Tree flight

The Campaign For Trees (patron, Sir Laurens van der Post) aims to alert governments around the world to the importance of increased tree-planting by flying to their doorstep. But in order to get the project off the ground, the Tree Trust's founder, Paul Caton, is seeking sponsorship for a 35,000-mile airborne journey in a light aircraft which will visit more than 40 countries. Caton intends to rendezvous with leaders in politics, commerce and religion en route to inspire positive action. For further details, contact Paul Caton at Wellspring Cottage, Deerfold, Lingon, Bucknell, Shropshire SY7 0EE (056 886607).

Josephine Fairley

Papa's friend

It was a rare achievement to survive as a long-standing friend of Ernest Hemingway. But Eric Dorman-Smith was such a several of his books. In *The friend*, The British Army of the West met Hemingway at the Hill tells the poignant story of end of the First World War. a remarkable friendship.

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Rape and pillage — Durham's coastal crisis

Cumbrian cooking

Brian Redhead on the North South divide

J.P. DONLEAVY • JESSIE KESSON • PATRICK NUTTGENS

This month Brian Redhead debates the North/South divide, Elisabeth Luard discovers secrets from a Cumbrian kitchen, Ursula Buchan plants a potager, J. P. Donleavy talks candidly and we meet the monks who turn muck into brass.

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ONE LOOK TELLS YOU IT'S DAKS

TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Ever since the news leaked last week-end of Peter Walker's imminent departure as Secretary of State for Wales, a strange little game has been taking place on the Government benches. With few bona fide Welsh MPs considered suitable for the job, junior ministers and their supporters have taken to regaling the House with subtle, and sometimes not so subtle, comments about their Welsh antecedents and connections. There was the Foreign Office minister, William Waldegrave, paying tribute to the people of Newport for their contribution to medical aid to Romania, and hastily adding that he hoped his comments would "not be misunderstood in any way". Perish the thought. Then back-bencher Henry Bellingham sang the praises of the deputy chief whip, Tristan Garel-Jones, currently in Uruguay. What better person, he suggested, to represent the Government in such places, given the honourable member's Latin blood. That, of course, was the cue for a joke about Garel-Jones's Welsh blood from junior Foreign Office minister Tim Sainsbury. However, favourite for the Cabinet seat remains David Hunt, currently handling the poll tax at the Department of the Environment. He was born in the Principality, and friends have helpfully taken to describing his Merseyside seat as "close to Wales".

As straw in the wind, perhaps, concerning the Prime Minister's future intentions. Husband Denis is steadily reducing his outside business interests; this week he resigned from the board of Pitney Bowes. He is said to be telling friends that with his 75th birthday approaching, this is the time to start thinking about taking life easy. Whether he has urged similar advice on his good lady is a matter for speculation.

Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley were among those who happily signed a card circulated at last week's national executive meeting, thinking long and hard before coming up with suitably witty messages of congratulations to party officer Sally Morgan on giving birth. In fact, the card was for Jack Rodgers, a no-nonsense, pipe-smoking trade union official of the old school, currently in a Liverpool hospital. Whether the congratulations of the Labour leadership on his contribution to increasing the Labour vote in the year 2008 will assist his speedy recovery remains to be seen.

Not many people in Mid-Shropshire are better off on account of the poll tax, but David Unwin is certainly one of them. His home, Chertsey Hall, is estimated to be worth a sum into seven figures, and when the Tory by-election candidate, Charles Prior, canvassed there this week he must have felt confident of a Tory vote. As he approached the stately home, the helicopter on the lawn and the new Mercedes in the drive must have reinforced his confidence. Imagine, then, his confusion at seeing a "Vote Labour" sticker in the back of the Mercedes. Perhaps it was a joke. But no: Mrs Unwin told him they were appalled by the present level of interest rates and would definitely be voting Labour.

BARRY FANTONI



"Boring really. None of Di's hand-dressing receipts or anything like that"

Early day Commons motion No 464 is just the sort of thing you would expect from Tory MPs with such right-wing credentials as Teresa Gorman, Tim Janman and Teddy Taylor. It notes "the complete failure of socialism in all its forms around the world", calls for Eastern Europe to move more swiftly towards the free market system, "which has demonstrated its moral and productive superiority", and ends by looking forward to the day "when socialism is completely swept away in the United Kingdom as well". The motion has been on the order paper for a month and attracted 10 Tory signatures. Then, suddenly, the name of David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, appeared on it yesterday. Teresa Gorman expressed alarm at the speed of the enlightenment on the Labour left. Blunkett's office, showing a commendable sense of humour, collapsed in fits of giggles when I pointed out the error. At least, I trust it is an error...

I have managed to locate Twin Falls, Idaho, in my atlas. It is just up the road from Glens Ferry, and just down the road from Blackfoot. Or, more accurately, up and down the river from them, because Twin Falls lies at the southern extremity of the Snake River Plain, straddling its eponym. It has Shoshone to the north, and Riddle to the west, and Sosa Springs to the east, and Grouse Creek to the south.

It thus sounds as small-town American as it is possible to be, and these sounds interfere ineluctably with my vision of it.

If you say those names aloud, Norman Rockwell paints their landscape in your head. You see picket fences and clapboard houses and yellow pick-up trucks and children in plaid macinawns and car-muffs throwing snowballs, and beaming men in arm-

Despite the present difficulties, the community charge is the best system available for local government finance — it is even flattered by imitation in Labour's much more complex "roof tax" — so it is vital that it should not be strangled at birth.

At present levels, there is a real danger that it will be overwhelmed by popular antagonism. Had it been between £150 for the prudent authority and £350 for the profligate, public reaction would have been very different. No one would have jibed at £150, particularly with a rebate for the least well-off. Those charged £350 would quite reasonably have asked why, and brought their anger to bear in the security of the ballot box. Accountability would rule, and at last a workable formula would have been established to curb the explosive tendencies of local government expenditure.

Unfortunately, we are faced with much higher figures, from £250 a head to about £600. The Government will find this politically unsustainable, for there is too much anxiety among too many people. Unrebated pen-

sioners with limited savings are desperately concerned that their small nest-eggs will be drained away, while a spendthrift neighbour will get a rebate from the taxes that they pay. The low-paid will find their household budgets torn to shreds as they seek to find as much as £7 per week extra. The country as a whole will feel that the Government is out of sympathy with the problems of ordinary people.

It is being put about that there can be no significant changes this year. To this Thatcherite Conservative, committed to the continuation of Thatcherite policies, that is unacceptable. In the past, will-power in pursuit of courageous but correct policies has achieved success. The unions were returned to their members, industry was reinvigorated, and the Falklands were retaken. Will-power in pursuit of

Tony Marlow seeks a Thatcherite solution to the poll tax row

Reversing the charges

the wrong objective is the dangerous will-power of the bunker. As things stand, the community charge is unacceptable. If it is rejected in the year of its launch, it may be irretrievably doomed. Most backbenchers assumed that in year one, money would be made available from the Exchequer to reduce the overall levels and cushion the impact on losers. At the same time, it was vital not to be overlavish with the grant, for it is the nature of local authorities to lap up whatever is on offer while changing the levels they first thought of.

True to form, local authorities have made proposals equivalent to rate increases of one third. Most of these proposals have now been made, so the time is ripe to reduce the unacceptable impact on the public. Levels must be brought down.

First, we must deal with the worries of millions of desperately concerned pensioners. Their savings and those of the disabled should not be taken into consideration when assessing who qualifies for rebates. To be disqualified from receiving benefit may be a misfortune; to be disqualified from rebate as well makes it seem as if someone does not care.

Second, there is a need for large-scale community charge capping. It is well justified. Even Northamptonshire, a supposedly prudent county, is charging its residents £40 over the odds. This figure has been reached partly because of increased services, and apparently without any attempt to cut current waste.

To ensure that the charges do not violate the art of the possible, we will also have to dip into our collective pockets as

taxpayers. It has been suggested that in the fight against inflation, tax thresholds should not be indexed, so that the retail price index could be kept down by freezing the tax on beer and tobacco. But it would be far, far better to spend any additional revenue on a national community charge rebate, an equal reduction of the charge for everyone. The impact on the retail price index would be identical. There is no social case for subsidizing the smoker and the drinker; there is a massive social (and political) case for reducing the impact of the community charge.

The prospects of every government are tied to the economy. The prospects of this Government are also tied, as never before, to a single issue: how fairly to finance and constrain local government expenditure.

At the moment, ministers seem to be floundering in unexpected quicksand. With nearly two-and-a-half years to go before an election must be held, there is plenty of time for a political Houdini to escape. The question is whether the Prime Minister, after 10 years in office, has the skills of the escapologist.

History will rate Margaret Thatcher as one of the 25 greatest influences on the nation's progress since William the Conqueror. History will also be interested in the manner of her departure. Thatcherites believe that the course on which she has so successfully set Britain is the right one. To maintain that course, the overriding requirement is the maintenance of Conservative government. If will-power is distorted into stubbornness, and Mrs Thatcher is finally engulfed in the morass, it will be necessary for the party to struggle free, and as the Wagnerian chorus subsides, the clearest features emerging from the mist are likely to bear a marked resemblance to those of Michael Heseltine.

The author is Conservative MP for Northampton North.

Freedom red in tooth and claw

David Selbourne, in the second part of a series on German reunification, sees Eastern pride and worth being trampled in Bonn's takeover thrust

Every day, between one and two thousand East Germans arrive for resettlement in the Federal Republic. To the majority of West Germans, the plight of their fellow-citizens is miserable and alarming: an eye for the main chance vies with anxiety for their own pockets; widespread dismissiveness of East Germany's 40-year history exists (often in the same person) with a sensitivity to the people's misfortunes.

The rougher end of vox pop, to which Chancellor Kohl sometimes seems closest, noisily declares — with few dissenters — that East Germany is a total failure, is dependent on West German hard cash for rescue, has invited an *Anschluss*, or annexation, and has not much entitlement to complain about it. Or, more temperately, "they are Germans too and deserve our help" — provided they work for it, stay where they are, and accept with good grace whatever they are given.

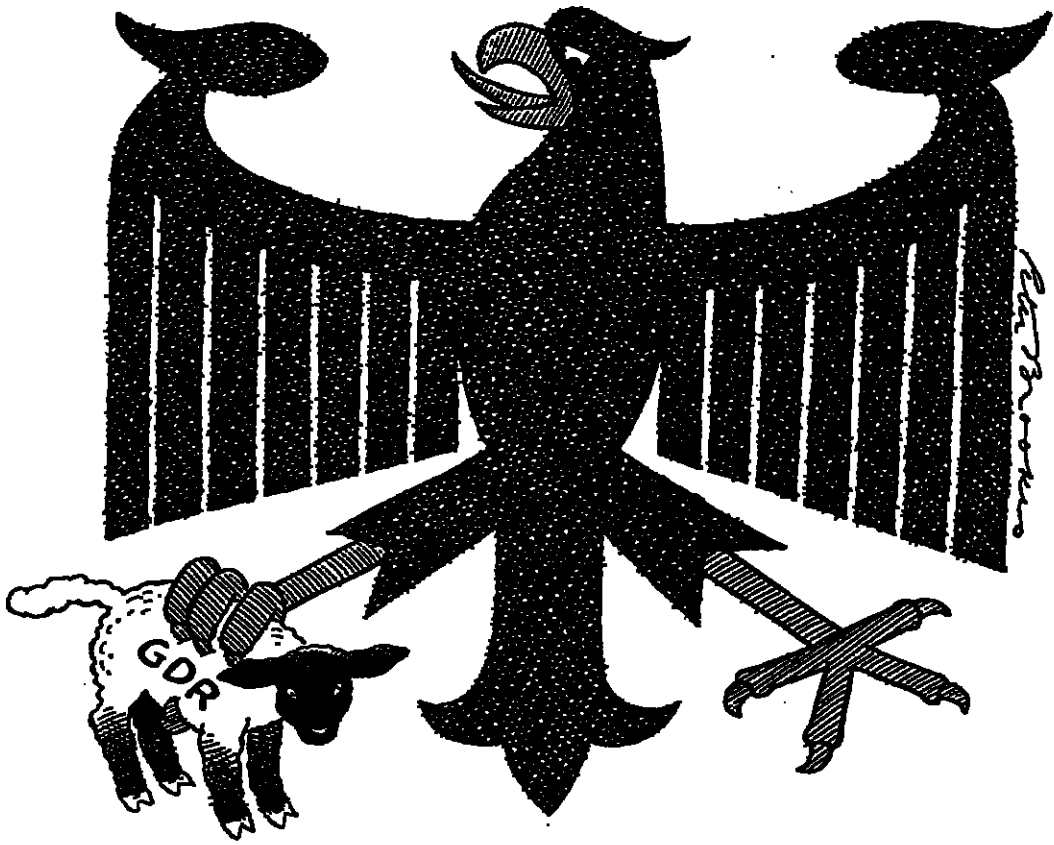
Despite such widely held opinions, Germans, East and West, have so far reacted with remarkable steadiness to the present upheaval. Most other societies, our own included, might in similar circumstances have started to buckle. Indeed, the scale of what is happening to the two Germanies outpaces the observer. An entire social order is being driven irresistibly into subordination to another, and one which is founded upon wholly different political, economic and constitutional principles. A single fact encapsulates such differences: when East Germany goes to the polls on March 18, only voters approaching their eighties will have taken part previously in a free, nationwide election. Does this represent a democratic liberation, or is it a

West German takeover? Might it even, paradoxically, be both? And does East Germany have anything to contribute to the Federal Republic?

The people in both countries may be phlegmatic, but these questions have thrown the political class and the intelligentsia, left, right and centre, into agitation. The far left and the Greens say that Chancellor Kohl has blackmailed East Germany by refusing it economic help until its citizens have established their democratic credentials and formally rid themselves of the communist order. They say he has cheated it, at the moment of its gaining freedom, of the opportunity for true self-determination, leaving it only one option: simple accession to the Federal constitution. Indeed, the German left sees the "semi-colonial" chancellor somewhat as the British right sees him: as the archetypal bullish German, pawing the ground and trampling on the necks of others. The West German SPD, though now enthusiastic for reunification, also dislikes the "chaotic stampede to incorporate the GDR", and the imposition upon it of an "unconditional surrender" to the Federal Republic.

The line of Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democrats is that East Germany is a mess and its people "desperate to live as we do". Moreover, their fellow-Germans in the East lack both the experience and the "structures" — a free constitution and an autonomous political process — that would permit them to make further progress under the old dispensation.

In other words, they are not being "sold out", because they have nothing the new Germany will be the old Germany plus 16 million. Any rozier view of the way things stand in East Ger-



many is regarded by the Christian Democrats as wishful or "romantic" thinking: a criticism directed not only at the left but at liberals in the entourage of the foreign minister, Mr Genscher. "It reflects a nostalgic hankering," declared Jürgen Aretz of the Ministry of Inter-German Affairs, "for the dreamworld of our childhoods, when the roads were cobbled here too, when everything was in order. But if you go to the heart of the matter there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that we can take over into the Federal Republic."

But it is not long since the GDR was being regularly cited as the world's tenth-ranking industrial power. How was it that, almost overnight, the GDR became, or came to be seen as, a bankrupt nation? First, because the East Germans themselves, from December last, were saying something like it to Bonn. Second, because the Modrow government was seen to lack the will and ability to introduce the

kind of radical reforms which would have staunched the emigrations. Third, because — rather than taking such action — Modrow sought a 15 billion Deutschmark loan from West Germany and was dispatched empty-handed. Instead, Mr Modrow got an offer of economic and monetary union on Bonn's terms.

The commonplace view that the East Germans' mentality is different, and that "over there, nothing is in order" was merely reinforced by this political collision. Surprisingly, out-and-out disparagement of East Germany as a bankrupt nation on the brink of anarchy is encountered least in the business community. The industrialist Otto Wolff von Amerongen thinks that although the East Germans are "complete amateurs in political science, economics, large areas of technology and robotics", many of the "old German skills and

traditions" survive, along with "Prussian discipline".

At the Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, there are similar judgements. The East, says Norbert Walter, its chief economist, would be bringing not only costs and burdens, but a huge resource of skills, together with its own 40-year-old links with Soviet and other East European markets. The Saxons, he says, are especially hardworking; the prospects for small business in particular are good, and once the legal framework has been altered in favour of free enterprise, substantial investment will follow.

But was it to pass a West German test in production that the crowds massed in Leipzig in their hundreds of thousands last November? Not according to Ibrahim Bohme, East Germany's SPD leader, currently leading the opinion polls for the March 18 elections. He concedes that there is no alternative to "doing things now" — a eu-

phemism for keeling over to Bonn sooner rather than later — but insists that "the Deutschmark is not a gift to the GDR". Kohl's monetary union is needed to "stop people coming over here and plundering us".

He acknowledges that East Germany will be "the weaker part" of a single German republic. "But we are in favour of being treated equally," he says feebly. There is not much chance of it: the horns of the East German dilemma are sharp ones. But Bonn has nothing much to offer its feebly protesting subject. "We had the most peaceful and radical revolution in history, and we will continue to champion the cause of freedom, democracy and social justice. That is what we are bringing to a unified German republic."

But West Germany too stands for these things, and in Bonn such principles, fundamental as they are, butter no parsnips. More precariously still, much of the East German electorate, swept along by the ebullience of campaigning politicians, is now dreaming of milk and honey, only the discredited communists, such as Gregor Gysi, persistently pour cold water on such false hopes and fancies.

Von Amerongen broadly agrees with Gysi: "The problem is that the people of Leipzig and Dresden think that their shops will be full the day after reunification." Indeed there is the risk of the exodus of impatient East Germans into the Federal Republic continuing if today's expectations founder in unemployment, rising prices and political disillusion.

"They didn't really want an *Anschluss*," says Dieter Vogel, the Bonn government's spokesman. "Many of them wanted to preserve the special identity of the GDR. But who knows what this identity is? The tragedy for those who made the revolution is that the people themselves wanted to live like us." Whether they will be able to — in East Germany, in Eastern Europe, in the Soviet Union — is another, and more disturbing, matter.

Last exit visa for the band of fellow travellers

Robert Kilroy-Silk on the communist support chorus that has gone quiet

I wonder if Neil Kinnock has the occasional sleepless night about his warm embrace of Fidel Castro in Nicaragua a few years ago? I bet he does. It must be just a little embarrassing to be reminded now of the manner in which he greeted one of the few remaining communist dictators.

You would have thought that the Labour leader's wife would have learnt from the experience. Not a bit of it. Only a couple of weeks ago she was gushing about the glamour of the now discredited and discarded Sandinistas. Even then, before the election, many in the Labour Party must have been embarrassed by her description of the "vitality" of the Sandinista campaign, with its "mustang, sombrero and bandanas".

That was before the Nicaraguan people showed that they were rather more discerning in their choice of political friends than the wife of the leader of the Labour Party. She does not seem to have had much to say since

they voiced their opinion. But then there is not much she could say, is there?

She is not the only apologist for foreign regimes who has suddenly found it prudent to be quiet. The cat appears to have got the tongue of many of those who were once vociferous about the virtues of one dictator or another, who fitted in and out of Eastern Europe, holidaying at Black Sea resorts, and who lectured us about the merits of repressive regimes and the evils of the West.

There is good reason for their silence. For the first time in recent history the people of these countries have been allowed to speak. They talk a different language, adopt another tone, from that of their would-be Western spokesmen. Some British trade unionists and trendy lefties may have sung the praises of Ceausescu, but the Romanian

people never did. They hated him and all he stood for.

Mrs Kinnock might be in a bit of a swoon over the dashing Daniel Ortega, with his "machismo" and his "horse-back campaigning", but the Nicaraguan people were not so easily seduced. They got shot of him at the first opportunity in an election which the Labour leader's wife was among the first to declare, before the results, to be "free and fair".

The fate of Ortega is befalling the communist leadership throughout Eastern Europe, despite what their Western supporters would have had us believe about their former popularity. The same fate awaits Fidel Castro, if he ever dares to have a free election.

The reasons for the dumping of communist dictators is not merely that the people have been enticed by capitalism and desire

Western material possessions and lifestyle. They do, of course. And why not? There is nothing wrong with wanting that part of the good life. The communist leaders enjoyed it, albeit in secret. Nor do the Scargills, the Benns, the Heffers, or even the Kinnocks, eschew it entirely. They all know how to enjoy the fruits of capitalism.

Nor is the fact that the communist countries have failed to catch up economically with the West the sole cause of their unpopularity and downfall. The real condemnation of the system came from the sheer contempt they demonstrated for the people they affected to serve. Without exception, these regimes treated their peoples with a callous and despicable disregard that cannot be excused or forgiven, not ever.

The contempt for the individual is shown most conspicuously, of course, in the

arrogant patronizing assertion that the leaders know what is good for everyone, and can speak, like Glensy Kinnock, for the people, can confidently shout out how they will vote before they have even cast a ballot paper.

In these circumstances there is no need for an election. It is a short step from that to describe all opposition as enemies, to deny basic freedoms, and to erect an apparatus of terror that will preserve the "real" will of the people.

And because the state is all-wise it can do what it likes. It razes villages and herds their occupants into collective farms, splits up families and interferes in every single aspect of life, exhibiting, in its hospitals, prisons and industrial policy, a scant regard for the health and safety, still less dignity, of its citizens. These are actions of an ar-

rogant state that is not constrained by alternatives or by independent sources of power and authority such as elected local councils, trade unions, or the church. They are the consequences of a state machine that is not accountable for what it does.

But what makes it all so much worse is that the leaders are at least tacitly made responsible by some supporters in the safety of the West. They pat Ceausescu on the shoulder, are friendly with Castro, or worship at the shrine of Ortega.

The wife of the Labour leader said that the "poor people of Nicaragua" recognized that they had a government which had given them "dignity and respect". They did not and it had not. That is why they turned it out. That is what they would also do to Fidel, given the chance.

All that the wife of the Labour leader, and Fidel, have to do is to stop speaking for the people and let them speak for themselves.

The only literary figure in town



ALAN COREN

You do not know that he is nine years old. I do, because he has written to me, signing himself "Charles P. Wincott (aged 9)" in a big round pencil script. Now, when you write chil-

dren's books, you reap a special whirlwind: the readers write back. Many of them write back even when they don't want to, because they have been forced to read your book in class, and part of the exercise is to write to the author and make him regret the day he didn't go into dentistry or fish-farming.

American schools are a particular headache on this score, because whole classes write, and often they write the same letter, since this is the way their teacher has pointed them, e.g. "Arthur is on a horse on page 16 but he is not on it on page 23, where has the horse gone? this is a mistake, please write as soon as possible."

You are then stuck with writing 26 individual letters to Alopecia, Wis., at a mailing cost of a tenner, because if you don't they all think you're a rat, and the school board will not buy any more of your books.

Since they would have to buy 100 of them for you just to get the tenner back, this is a lousy deal, but you do it anyway, because you don't want to think you're a rat, either.

And also because the occasional incoming letter lets it be known that the sender wants to be a writer, too, and asks questions about how to get started and where do the ideas come from and do you use a pen or a

typewriter, and although the odds are long against their ever cracking it, you feel an incumbency to keep their spirits up, because you might thus stop one or two of them from going into dentistry or fish-farming.

But the truth is, the questions they ask are never the right ones. At least they weren't until Charles P. Wincott came along. I opened his letter yesterday, and I quote his final paragraph in full:

"I want to be a writer, and what I would like to know is how much did you make last year, what car do you drive, and do you have a boat and a beach-house?"

Which is why I need a clear picture of both of Charles P. Wincott and of Twin Falls, Idaho. For I rather feel the world will be hearing more of him, and of it, and I want to be able to say I knew them when.



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CONSTABULARY DUTY

There are 43 separate forces in England and Wales, and police strength currently stands at over 125,000 — an increase of some 22 per cent since 1974. Their interests are represented by three separate associations — the Police Federation, the Superintendents' Association and the Association of Chief Police Officers. Historically, they have had widely differing objectives.

Early last year, however, their Joint Consultative Committee formed the view that too much was being expected of a service which was under-resourced in both manpower and equipment. They feared that if the current demand trends continued, the whole concept of policing by consent, which had been valued in this country for so long, "would be lost to the accountants' balance sheet". The Operational Policing Review which was published yesterday is the fruit of their first major research programme.

The review makes no bones about presenting an unashamedly police service perspective on the major policing issues of the day. It is none the worse for that. It relied on the expertise both of external academic consultants and of the Harris Research Centre, and the findings include the results of a national survey on policing style "designed to constrain members of the public to face deployment decisions when only limited resources were available". This is complemented by research conducted among members of the police consultative groups that were established under the terms of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of 1984.

The central preoccupation informing the review is that the current philosophy of economy, efficiency and effectiveness is forcing police managers to concentrate their resources upon the quantifiable aspects of police work and that the traditional concept of traditional policing — the single constable, close to his community, patrolling his beat with the consent of the public — is being eroded.

The public appear to place this higher in their preferences than many other police activities and deployments. The public also,

however, exhibits its well-known tendency to want to have it both ways. When asked about the use of police discretion, for instance, there was a consensus that police should be selective in the laws they enforce — although most people also considered it important for the police to investigate all crimes.

The review devotes a good deal of attention to the Home Office policy of "civilization". In principle, the release of police officers for operational duties has much to commend it. The lack of career prospects among civilian staff has, however, produced an uncomfortably high wastage rate — up to 28 per cent of civilian establishments in some cases.

There are also disturbing implications for industrial relations. There is no particular history of militancy, but there are now more than 13,000 members of Nalco in the police service.

One federation official claimed in his evidence that it was absurd to proscribe industrial action for police officers and then make the service reliant on civilians who enjoy the right to strike. The Metropolitan Police reported that insignificant numbers of staff had taken part in Civil Service strikes in recent years, but admitted that they had no contingency plans to deal with industrial action.

Public confidence in the police has been severely shaken in recent years, and the Operational Policing Review can be seen as one measure of the concern the service feels for its reputation. Its findings also suggest that there is much unfinished business for the Home Office to attend to.

It is plainly not satisfactory that what were intended as efficiency initiatives have in many cases resulted in a lessening of police effectiveness. Improvements in productivity that are not coupled with improvements in service are without value.

The three police associations are to be congratulated on a major initiative. Although the review has no official status, the quality of the work that has gone into it should persuade the Government to give the most careful consideration to the extensive list of recommendations attached to it.

CAUTIOUS MR KING

It is not the task of a defence secretary to speculate in public. A transformation of British defence policy will, nevertheless, have to follow — if it does not precede — the reunification of Germany, the end of the Warsaw Pact and the diminution of the Soviet threat.

In such times, it falls to the responsible minister to formulate the choices with which the Government is confronted. The speech which Mr Tom King gave yesterday to the Royal United Services Institute did not do a great deal to illuminate government thinking in any of these areas.

Those who had expected to hear something about the Soviet military presence in East Germany were disappointed. Preliminary talks begin today in Berlin to pave the way for a "two-plus-four" conference, which would provide the political framework within which the German nation may exercise its right to self-determination. This solemn diplomatic pavan will, however, speedily result in trampled toes unless Nato members can agree in advance on the military status of East Germany following reunification.

The field is still occupied in solitary splendour by the idea, first proposed by Herr Genscher, of a demilitarized zone encompassing the whole of East Germany. Berlin, as the putative and undivided capital of a unified Germany, would evidently require very careful handling indeed. The Genscher plan is provisional. It would at best meet present Soviet objections to a single Germany within Nato, while leaving unanswered the longer-term question of how to enforce such a drastic limitation of German sovereignty in the military sphere.

Mr King yesterday repeated that Nato forces should not, for the foreseeable future, be stationed beyond the present inner-German border. But he did not even raise the question

of how long Soviet forces should remain on German soil after reunification.

Disdaining avuncular talk of a "peace dividend", Mr King left his audience in no doubt that the Government still believes in the threat posed by the Soviet military machine. But he did not explain how he proposes to convince our manifestly doubtful allies of the force of this proposition. Nor did he examine (even if only to reject) the thesis, now fashionable on both sides of the Atlantic, that a new Pan-European security system, embracing both alliances, is both inevitable and desirable.

There are reasons, some of them good ones, for the Defence Secretary's reticence. It would certainly not have been politic for Mr King to lift the curtain on the size and composition of British armed forces, at home and abroad, in the various options now under consideration by his advisers.

Nor, on the eve of sensitive negotiations in Berlin, could Mr King be expected to prejudice such delicate questions as the security implications of an East German accession to the Federal Republic under Article 23 of the latter's Constitution. Though this might be the most painless form of unification for the Germans themselves, and is now acceptable to both main parties there, it could precipitate a crisis in East-West relations.

Voluntary absorption of one German state by the other would leave the Soviet troops in limbo, with incalculable effects on Moscow's future policy. This potentially explosive situation might arise soon after the East German election on March 18.

Nobody expects elaborate 10-point plans from Mr King. He undoubtedly deserves sympathy in his efforts to master an increasingly bewildering brief. Perhaps he will find another occasion before too long to offer some insight into the way government policy is shaping.

CLOSING DOWN RABTA

The disclosures by Western intelligence that Libyan production of chemical weapons has resumed are obviously a cause of grave concern. Poison gases, and nerve agents in particular, are potentially genocidal instruments of war. In the hands of a leader as paranoid as Colonel Gaddafi, they require urgent international intervention.

It is only through international action that he has them. The involvement of West German industry in helping to build the notorious factory at Rabta is a source of great embarrassment in Bonn. Moreover, the materials it is using and the technical expertise required to run it have been supplied by countries round the world. Last year the European Community reinforced an export ban on eight precursors — chemicals essential for poison gas production. But more than 20 countries, mostly in the Third World, are already thought to have a manufacturing facility. According to a US intelligence report Colonel Gaddafi has now produced 30 tons of mustard gas and 150 bombs.

The developed world cannot blame anyone but itself for this proliferation. Britain destroyed its chemical weapons in the 1950s and France denies having any. Although the superpowers are now starting to destroy existing stocks it has taken them a long time to get round to it. Two years ago the United States ended a 18-year moratorium on production and launched a \$3 billion programme to build one million of the most modern binary weapons in 10 years. These are meant to replace rather than supplement older systems. None the less it hardly seemed a very persuasive example to set before the developing world.

Attempts have been made since the end of the last century to negotiate a worldwide ban,

but the only real achievement in all those years has been the 1925 Geneva Protocol when the nations, horrified by the 1.3 million casualties of the First World War, agreed to outlaw the use of poison gases. Where the Protocol fell short was in failing to ban production and stockpiling. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva has been trying for years to complete the global ban — so far without success.

It is a difficult treaty to negotiate, partly because many of the chemicals needed are also used for legitimate civil purposes, partly because compliance is so difficult to verify that they are having to insist on a regime of "challenge inspections". Members of the international inspectorate should be free to go anywhere at any time if they are really to ensure there is no cheating. Some of the 40 nations represented in Geneva have found this too intrusive.

For several years they have been claiming to be on the verge of a breakthrough, and with a draft agreement on the table, they may now be close to that. Even now, however, amid alarming talk from Rabta, the powers cannot agree on instant action. The West Germans want to send a team of inspectors to investigate on the spot, but unless they arrived unannounced, they could easily be bamboozled by the Libyans. The Americans, in seeking the immediate closure of Rabta, have the right idea — although how that might be brought about is more difficult.

Force of arms must remain the ultimate sanction of the West. There are other means of applying pressure first, by tightening the screws economically and politically. They can only be applied if the countries concerned achieve a greater degree of unity and determination than they have shown themselves capable of so far.

Foul play fear in Soviet elections

From Mr David Alton, MP for Mossley Hill (Liberal Democrat) and others

Sir, The elections in the three Slavic republics of Russia, Ukraine and Belorussia were an important milestone in the processes now under way in the USSR towards greater democracy and sovereignty. Yet, although they have been hailed in the usual manner in the West as "the first multi-party free elections in the USSR since 1917", they have fallen far short of what we understand to be fair and free elections in a parliamentary multi-party democracy.

In Ukraine, the main opposition to the Communist Party, the Popular Movement (Rukh) was not registered in time to put forward candidates. Meanwhile, the manifesto of the "Democratic Bloc", formed to fight the elections but only allowed to contest 30 per cent of the seats, was not published in a single official newspaper. Even the candidates of the registered opposition "Green World" were not recognised.

Democratic candidates have been vilified in the media, beaten up by "unknown assailants" and not allowed access to facilities to print election leaflets; whilst, in the run-up to the elections, the KGB and party apparatus deliberately attempted to incite inter-ethnic strife and pogroms in order to justify repressive measures against the democratic opposition.

Reports which we have received from Kiev also testify to the desperate methods used by the Communist Party to ensure that they do not lose the elections (leading party members have tried to ensure their election by standing in rural districts). This has included refusing to register "Rukh" observers, not sealing ballot boxes, and in some electoral districts of Kiev there were not enough ballot papers, suggesting that they had either been destroyed or filled in by the Communist Party themselves.

Nevertheless, despite all the machinations of the Communist Party apparatus, the indications are that the Democratic Bloc, reformist communists, and deputies from the strike committees will account for approximately three quarters of the deputies in the new Ukrainian Parliament after the run-off on March 18.

Returns show that the Communist Party has fared badly in the city of Kiev, whereas in western Ukraine the Democratic Bloc has won nearly all the seats. The announcement consequently, that Rukh will now transform itself into a political party standing for an independent and democratic Ukraine, will have repercussions not only in the USSR but also throughout Europe. Yours faithfully, DAVID ALTON (Honorary Chairman, European Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Foundation), TARAS KUZIO (Ukrainian Press Agency), STEFAN KRYVAVYCH (Ukrainian Helsinki Union (British branch)), 78b Kensington Park Road, W11, March 7.

Alcohol abuse

From the Director of the Portman Group
Sir, Viscount Falkland (March 8) does me an injustice. It is true the Portman Group is funded by the eight major drinks companies, but I have never allowed my paymasters to restrict my independence and I do not propose to start now.

If I think one of their advertisements is deliberately aimed at young people under 18, I shall do everything I can to have it withdrawn. And if Lord Falkland wishes to draw such an advertisement to my attention, I shall be glad to hear from him. Yours faithfully, JOHN RAE, Director, The Portman Group, 2d Wimpole Street, W1.

Entente cordiale

From the British Consul-General, Marseilles
Sir, Mr Morgan (March 6) is somewhat niggardly in asserting that "the metric system is one of the few genuinely useful things the French have given us". More than that, the metric system has come to English from French! Yours faithfully, TREVOR MOUND, H. M. Consul-General, 24 Avenue du Prado, 13006 Marseilles, France.

'The Three Graces'

From the Chairman of the National Art-Collections Fund
Sir, Mr Jacob Rothschild's scheme for rescuing Canova's statue of "The Three Graces" (report, February 24, letters, March 2, 6) from export is ingenious and welcome. Whether it succeeds or not, Britain has a big problem, well illustrated by the case of the Canova.

Britain's past relative wealth ensured an accumulation of fine works of visual art. Those in accessible collections enrich the cultural experience of British people. They also attract overseas visitors, to our great economic gain. The trouble is that today there are much richer nations.

It is therefore inevitable that many other notable works of art will be bought from British collections at historically high prices. Many of them we will want to keep here because it would be wise

Plea for patience on Unesco future

From Mr Alan Elliott

Sir, The news you conveyed (report and leading article, March 7) concerning the director-general of Unesco's high-level staff appointments is indeed surprising to both Unesco's friends and critics, particularly as he had given evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee at the House of Commons only last Thursday.

However, as our permanent observer at Unesco headquarters pointed out to the committee yesterday, we should be able to study the 70-page document in which these proposals are contained before passing further judgement.

The Government is at present engaged in the important exercise of deciding whether or not the UK should return to membership. Unfortunately this issue is invariably clouded by endless and inconclusive arguments as to how well Unesco and its director-general are currently performing. On that score there will always be different viewpoints.

A more fundamental issue lies in the recognition or otherwise of the validity of the principles underlying all Unesco's activity. These include "full and equal opportunities for education for all, the unrestricted pursuit of objective truth, and the free exchange of ideas and knowledge" and many others which no civilized government should fail to support.

There are admittedly many

problems in working towards such ends and Unesco is by no means the only vehicle for that purpose. But it is a major specialized agency of the United Nations system which cannot be lightly neglected. Nothing can be achieved by standing aside and suggesting that other means should be used, thus giving comfort to all those who do not really believe that the principles on which Unesco is based need be supported.

The UK was a founder-member of Unesco, and many of the organization's present problems can be attributed to a lack of effective action by the UK and USA in its governing bodies. The situation you are now so ready to criticize might not have arisen if the UK (and USA) had remained member states, and above all members of the executive board.

Even if you support the Government's view that it served a useful purpose in withdrawing, there is still no justification for jumping too hastily to conclusions and sending the wrong message to other countries at this critical time by maintaining, as you do, that there should be no question of a British return.

Yours faithfully, ALAN ELLIOTT (Honorary Secretary, Friends of Unesco), Paddock End, Burnstead Road, Great Shelford, Cambridge, March 7.

Poll tax anomalies

From Councillor Steven Cawley

Sir, It is ironic that you chose today (March 3) to publish the poll tax liabilities of members of the Cabinet upon the same page as an item entitled "A tale of two boroughs".

A close inspection of the Cabinet's poll tax demands will reveal that John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, has chosen to pay his poll tax in the Conservative-controlled Maldon borough of his South Colchester and Maldon constituency, thereby facing a levy some 20 per cent above the Government's estimate.

Were Mr Wakeham fortunate enough to live in the Liberal Democrat-run Colchester borough area of his constituency then not only would he pay less, but he would also have the satisfaction of paying to his borough council a sum exactly equal to the Government's standard spending assessment. Yours sincerely, STEVE CAWLEY (Deputy leader, Liberal Democrats, Colchester Borough Council), 33 Twining Road, Colchester, Essex, March 3.

From Mr Charles F. Wilson
Sir, Your contributor, Rodney Lord (March 3), urges "Poll tax: just give it time". Unhappily, a fair tax has been brought in too abruptly. Harrods have been given five years, very likely much more, in which to adjust themselves to

the new rates system and for 1990-91 will probably pay only one-seventh of their due responsibility. Innumerable other commercial concerns will similarly benefit. Inversely, some rate savings will be held back.

Surely some breaking-in period for community charge payers would have been more equitable? I suggest three years. Yours truly, C. F. WILSON, 14 Royal Chase, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, March 3.

From Major Henry Haydon
Sir, I have a number of friends/acquaintances in the south-east part of the London Borough of Sutton where I live, who will pay with effect from April this year anything between £1,000 and £2,000 p.a. less than they now pay in domestic rates.

On the other hand, at the north end of the borough there are many couples, now living in low-rated properties, who will be paying between £100 and £300 p.a. more than they are now paying.

Why, if at national level income tax is accepted as a fair and practical way of raising revenue, is a local income tax not similarly accepted at local level?

Yours etc, HENRY HAYDON (Chairman, National Union of Ratepayers' Associations), 116 Sandy Lane South, Wallington, Surrey, March 3.

Mental health cuts

From the Director of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship

Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent (report, March 1) describes the situation at the internationally renowned psychiatric hospital in south London, the Maudsley, where cuts "would lead to suicidal patients living on the streets, and abused children being sent back to their homes".

Over recent years the National Schizophrenia Fellowship has been drawing attention to the programme of closure and run down of psychiatric hospitals in England and Wales. In the last 10 years 23,000 mental hospital beds have been lost and only 4,000 residential places have been provided in the community. In the next five years another 38 hospitals are due to close with at least another 12,500 places lost.

If this policy were co-ordinated to provide alternative provision and support in the community for those discharged from mental hospital, then an improved quality of life might be possible.

However, if cuts are going to occur in the manner that is taking place now, the Government must realise that they are heading for a major social disaster. Yours sincerely, JUDY WELEMINSKY, Director, National Schizophrenia Fellowship, NSF National Office, 78 Victoria Road, Surbiton, Surrey, March 1.

Past services

From Mr Antony Randle

Sir, There are noted in your columns today the retirement of an archdeacon and the mover of a canon from one diocese to another, with the intimation that each is to retain the title of his previous appointment, garnished with the word "Emeritus".

Emeritus is a Latin adjective suggesting that whoever is so qualified is past his work, or has been discharged with honour from service. Ovid uses it of horses (Fasti, IV, 1688). Why clergymen of the Church of England should be keen to so describe themselves I cannot think. Neither of the brace of retired archdeacons I know has ever admitted to me that he is past

it; and at the notion of an honourably discharged canon — *rust caelum!*

Deans, archdeacons, and canons emeriti abound; yet the most famous of modern deans would have nothing to do with it.

When his occupancy of St Paul's Deanery came to its end, Inge wrote as his final entry in the decanal diary, "— back to trousers". And in subsequent pages of the directory we know as *Crockford* he claimed no more reverence than is usually accorded the inferior clergy.

Sincerely, ANTONY RANDLE, Sixteen, Blacklow Road, Warwick, February 22.

sible and very desirable. Amelioration means more realistic purchasing grants for museums and galleries, a realistic annual grant for the National Heritage Memorial Fund and a revision of tax laws to permit people and companies to write off gifts of works of art to museums and galleries (or of cash for the purchase of such gifts) against annual tax bills.

These are all matters for the Treasury to consider. I and many others who work hard to enrich, or at least maintain, Britain's cultural life, have proposed them all to ministers and Civil Servants. Our able new Chancellor of the Exchequer has a chance to earn some good marks in his first year. I hope he does.

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS GOODISON, Chairman, National Art-Collections Fund, 20 John Islip Street, SW1.

Leukaemia links beyond Sellafield

From Dr Colin Bowl

Sir, I was sorry to see that your Medical Correspondent has given a further airing (Medical Briefing, March 1) to the tale that the BMJ report by Professor Martin Gardner "clearly demonstrates a link between young people at Sellafield who developed leukaemia or lymphoma... and the degree of exposure to radiation which their fathers had suffered while at work at the plant".

It is actually far from clear, as Professor Gardner's paper shows. For instance, the risk of leukaemia in children of iron and steel workers and also farmers in West Cumbria is as high as for Sellafield workers, yet Professor Gardner concentrates on Sellafield workers and looks no further at links with the steel industry and farming.

To accept that the sub-group of children whose fathers received more than 100 millisieverts before they were conceived had a six-fold risk of developing leukaemia cannot be right — we are dealing in small numbers (nine cases in 35 years for Sellafield), so statistical conclusions are of necessity imprecise.

Professor Gardner shows that the risk is probably somewhere between 1.4 and 50 times the normal risk, with an average of about six times; but he also shows that the children of fathers receiving between 50 and 90 mSv before their conception have only three-quarters of the risk of leukaemia as those of non-irradiated fathers. If this is true, then childhood leukaemia could be actually reduced by some irradiation. Yours faithfully, COLIN BOWL, Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Department of Radiation Biology, Charterhouse Square, EC1, March 2.

Student loans

From Mr William Allen

Sir, Student loans crept into the American university world during the depression of the 1930s as a way of helping students in bad times. In Canada I think we avoided their use entirely, not through affluence but because it was regarded as a retrograde and counter-productive policy.

The main reason was that university education was not regarded as a privilege but was seen as a nationally necessary investment to ensure an adequate flow of people with the kind of advanced knowledge base needed for a strong and healthy country active in the modern world. It was a natural end-point of primary and secondary education for those who could benefit from it.

The students' view was more personal, that in a recession one could not be by any means sure of getting work by which to repay a loan and therefore one didn't want that risk. I was tested myself by applying for a scholarship for advanced study at two east coast US universities. I was a successful applicant in both cases, but then found that the "awards" were to be loans, so I rejected them and came to Britain.

The relative prosperity of this country at present may reduce the fear of indebtedness, but it does not invalidate the main argument. Britain needs all the university-trained people it can produce and a loan scheme is likely to impede rather than facilitate this. The vice-chancellors are right. Yours faithfully, WILLIAM ALLEN, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1.

House in the country

From Mr John Mein

Sir, How refreshing to read (report and photograph, March 6) that Mr Bill Woods wants to build himself a "classical" mansion in the English countryside, albeit on green belt land. To spend £2 million building a stately home when there are mansions aplenty on the market at a quarter of the price suggests eccentricity; yet it was just this bravura in the past that created the landscapes of today.

In the guise of progress Twyford Down can be sliced in half, and a thousand green Kentish acres raped for the Channel tunnel, and the most hideous agricultural buildings plonked down all over our green belt areas. Yet Mr Woods may not create a landscaped park.

I hope he gets planning permission eventually. After all, his mansion looks peaceful enough — nothing better (or worse) than Norman Shaw might have drawn up over a good dinner with Aston Webb.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MEIN, Latimer House, Church Street, W4, March 7.

Seasonal greetings

From Mrs R. Galvan

Sir, I have recently given my eldest grandchild, for her birthday, a primrose bearing her name, Dawn. She was delighted and has promised to care for the plants.

What do your readers suggest as suitable plants for her sister's birthdays, Lorraine in October, Carmel in June and Stella in March, that might nurture an interest in gardening? Yours faithfully, NETTA GALVAN, 130 College Road, SE19, March 5.

THE ARTS

Not very gripping, darling

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

Few sights in television are as terrifying as a producer with five consecutive half-hour slots to fill in prime time and not much idea what to do with them. Exactly what inspires the BBC to give over the covers of *Radio Times* and two-and-a-half hours of BBC 1 to *Move Over Darling* (episode five tonight) is unclear, although I suspect it may have been its formidable executive producer, Janet Street-Porter.

Lifting the title and the soundtrack song from an old Doris Day movie (which, ironically, is not remotely feminist, being a remake of *My Favourite Wife*), the series was apparently intended to explore the role of the modern woman in what is still reckoned to be a man's world. After 15 minutes of Monday's opener, the danger signs were already in place: tricky, day-to-day captions, star presenter Pamela Stephenson in ever more pointless pieces to camera, and someone billed as a Professor of Organizational Psychology rabbiting on for the required 40 seconds.

On Tuesday, Pamela persuaded the actor Stephen Rashbrook to get into drag and indulge in a re-run of *Tootsie*, for which he tottered around on high heels wondering if anyone would notice he was not a she. Finishing up behind the bar of a South London pub, where transvestitism is not exactly unknown anyway, Rashbrook concluded that people talked to him more slowly when he was disguised as a woman, failing to consider that perhaps it was because they were trying to work out why he was wearing a dress.

By Wednesday, opinion polls were being quoted, and Pam was doing some Esther Rantzen door-step interviews to fill up the time. "Now," she enthused, "there's a really fascinating survey all about who cleans the lavatory." There followed a lengthy commercial for an advertising agency apparently staffed by the entire late cast of *Capital City*.

Last night, they came up with the idea of having a secretary take over her boss's job. Tonight, they promise a discussion on the role of women in the 1990s to which, says *Radio Times*, "all female MPs have been invited".

The problem here, even for those of us not as anti-feminist as this column might suggest, is that Miss Stephenson has set the cause back by at least 10 years.

Showings of two all-but-forgotten artists represent a challenge to British art's customary parochialism, John Russell Taylor writes

The best of British lost

If the phrase "modern British" inspires any confidence in the art market these days, it is partly because it provides an amorphous body of work with a label which reassuringly implies something comfortable, parochial, minor, and, of course, relatively inexpensive.

But the new regime at the Tate Gallery is doing its best to change that, not only by integrating British with international modern, but also by putting on exhibitions which allow British artists to challenge comparison with the best.

The latest invitation to reassess is on behalf of Thomas Lowinsky (until April 16). Or rather, to assess: virtually nobody today will have any idea either who Lowinsky was, or what his work could possibly look like. Indeed, in the 40-odd years since his death, he has slipped from even the standard reference books.

Born in 1892, of a rich and cosmopolitan Jewish family, he entered early into the circle of Charles Ricketts (he was a handsome young man), and his beginnings in art were much influenced by Ricketts's enthusiasm for the hieratic, bejewelled art of Gustave Moreau and the wispy idealizations of Burne-Jones. Lowinsky's

mature pictures tend to share with Burne-Jones a pale tonality (for although Lowinsky generally paints in oils, he uses them like tempera) and an invertebrate, static quality in the human figures. But many of his figures are human only to a limited extent. He reveres classical myth, and is particularly attracted to those involving Ovidian metamorphoses: "Daphne", unusually scrupulous in the artist's working-out of what it means to be something halfway between a nymph and a tree, is an obvious example.

Even when transformations are not involved, Lowinsky loves strange portmanteau creatures, such as the winged heads or human-headed birds (in his "Annunciation", for instance) which frequently recur. His odd angle of vision, coupled with his meticulous draughtsmanship, often brings him close to the Surrealists. The flying debris of "The Fall of the Tower of Babel" or the strange, dark "Mask of Flora", splitting apart to reveal the plants growing through, definitely seem to belong to international surrealism. A more immediate comparison, particularly for his biblical scenes, is with Carra and the Italian Magic Realists, though

whether Lowinsky could have known their work when he painted the draped, mysterious figures of "The Visitation" (1925) or the curiously decorous "Temptation of St Anthony" is a moot point.

In portraiture, to which he turned with increasing frequency, the same stylistic elements suggest we look rather towards Germany, and the cold-eyed exponents of the *Neue Sachlichkeit*: the sharp and slightly disagreeable portraits of women such as Serinda Negreanu and Cecily Hamilton immediately bring to mind painters such as Schad and Schlichter. And his line-drawings (he was a prolific book-illustrator) are deliciously funny, slightly perverse, and not immediately comparable with anyone.

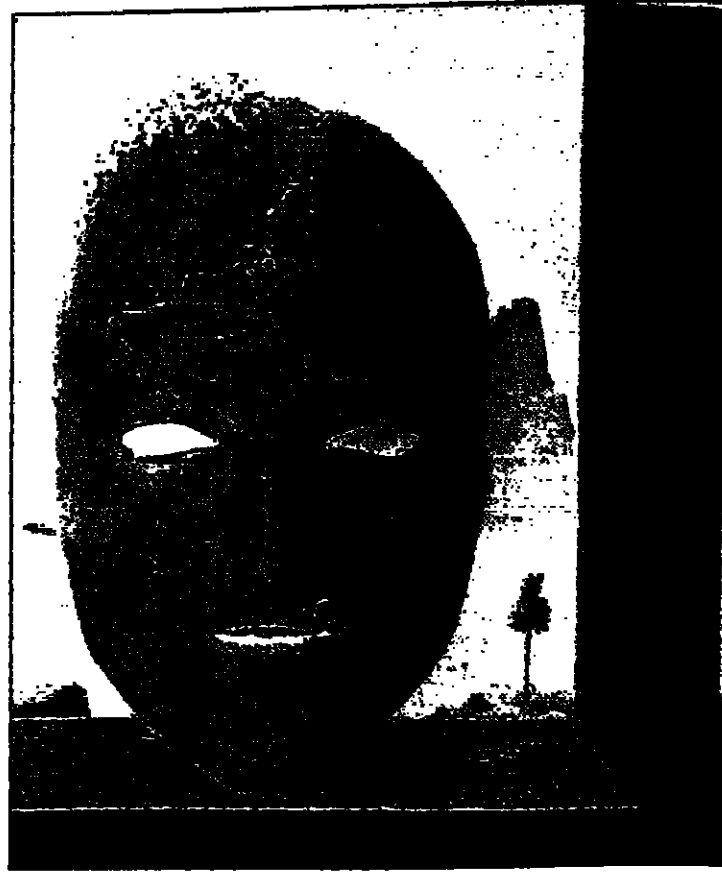
Certainly, it is a pleasure to make Lowinsky's acquaintance. It is even more extraordinary to encounter again the prints of John Copley (Agnew, until March 16). Copley has been, I suspect, the victim of a certain kind of art snobbery which assumes that etchers and lithographers are somehow on a lower rung than painters. He was, of course, a pretty good painter when

the mood took him. But it is in the graphic processes that his most brilliantly original work is found.

Copley, like Lowinsky, is a challenge to British parochialism. His wife, the artist Ethel Gabain, was French, and he travelled a lot in France and Italy. This may in some measure explain why his work looks so un-English, but does not explain much less explain away, his amazing originality.

It is highly unlikely that he would have known the artist who most frequently comes to mind in his early lithographs, Egon Schiele. He shares with Schiele a curious way of placing his human subjects within the pictorial frame: his "Tennis Players" seem to reel and writhe with a Lewis Carroll sort of freedom; his frantic players of "Lacrosse" or the buffeted and contorted "Figures in the Wind" (a late etching of 1940) are unaccountably elongated and moved around to make complex and mysterious patterns.

Occasionally his earliest prints, such as "A Lavatory" of 1909, with its males carefully arranging their appearance beyond the prying eyes of women, suggest the observation of some American realist like Bellows. The crisp, unfriendly pictures of the Twenties suggest Grosz or Dix. The



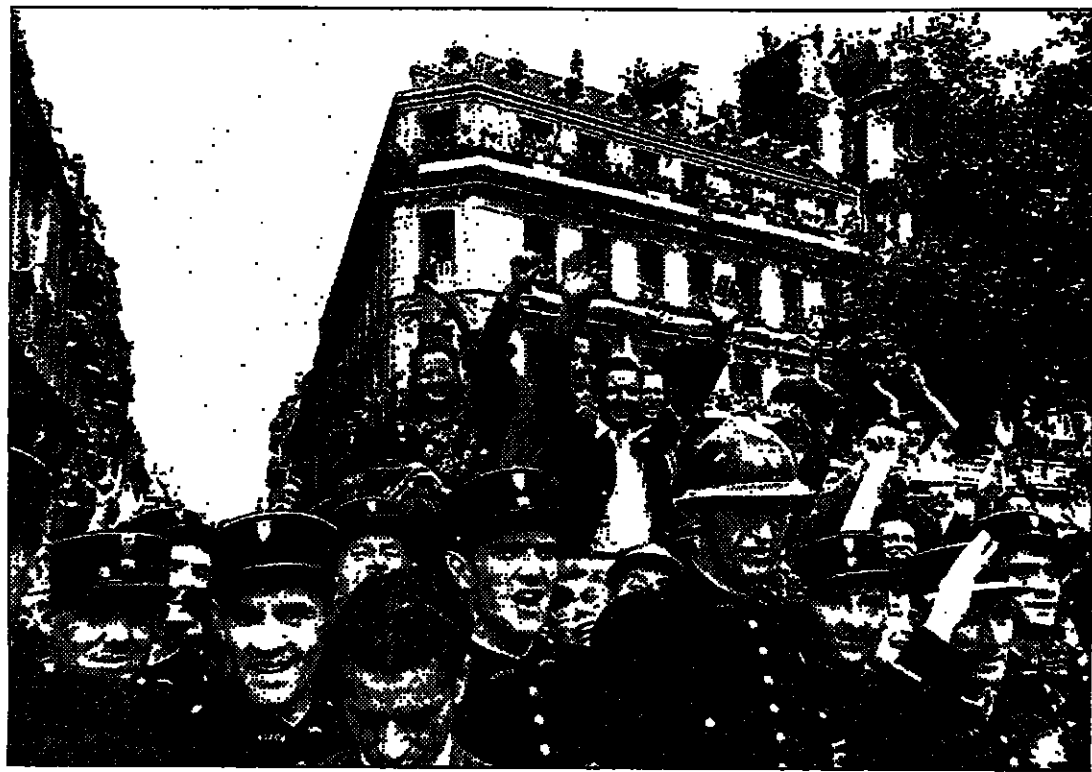
A reverence for classical myth: Thomas Lowinsky's "Mask of Flora"

elegantly unpredictable etchings of the Forties have possible connections with Anthony Gross or even Philippe Jullien.

original, almost defiant about whether you like him or not. He has a kind of grit, an ability to irritate: he is a too-long-disregarded major artist.

But finally, he is quite simply an

Dignity and degradation, viewed with Magnum force



The liberation of Paris, 1944, as seen by Robert Capa, whose work features in the Magnum exhibition

The now almost legendary Magnum photographic agency began in the spring of 1947. A group of freelance photographers met in the restaurant of the Museum of Modern Art in New York to form a co-operative photographic agency, free from the constraints of their picture editors: one that would give them greater autonomy and a stronger say in how their material was used.

With youthful arrogance, its founding members — George Rodger, Robert Capa, Henri Cartier-Bresson, David Seymour and William Vandivert — divided the world between them. Seymour covered Europe, Vandivert the United States, Cartier-Bresson took India and the Far East, and Rodger did Africa and the Middle East. Capa was free to roam the world.

In the early days Seymour and Capa were the driving forces: Capa the ideas man, Seymour the organizer and Carver of Capa's imaginative excesses. Both were killed early in Magnum's history. Capa stepped on a landmine while covering the war in Indo-China in

1954, and Seymour was cut down at Suez two years afterwards by Egyptian machine-gun fire.

The agency struggled for survival after that. But survive it did, and still does (it now has 40 members). Over the years it has amassed an incredible archive, some of which is now displayed in the Hayward Gallery's exhibition, *In Our Time: The World as Seen by Magnum Photographers* (until May 6).

Because of the symbiotic relationship between news events and photography, it is an inevitable chronicle of the tragedies of the past four decades. Murder, wars, pestilence and famine are the subjects here. One can almost sense each photographer coming to terms with the moral dilemma of framing atrocities in a viewfinder in order to produce an aesthetically pleasing picture. Rodger faced it in 1945, when he entered the Belsen concentration camp. So shaken was he that he never photographed another war.

However, it is a dilemma which for the most part is solved intuitively. Cartier-Bresson's phrase,

"the decisive moment", describes it best: the relationship of eye, mind and subject which makes content and form in a way that lends the photograph an enriched and coherent meaning. The few photographs by him in this rather disparate show engage the viewer with dramatic authority.

In the gloom of the Hayward Gallery we are not spared the suffering. Blood flows in Ireland and Israel, children starve in Uganda, Mother Teresa treats the dying in Calcutta, and, occasionally, colour prints (such as Susan Meiselas's documentary on Nicaragua), shatter the black and white solemnity.

But there is, too, a lighter side to Magnum's chronicle. Inge Morath's splendid portrait of Mrs Evelyn Nash in London in 1953, Eve Arnold's delectable 1960s studies of Marilyn Monroe in Hollywood, David Hurn's quietly seductive studies of the British at play, display a breathtaking charm and a concern for human dignity, a concern common to all Magnum photographs.

Michael Young

Fragments of Britten

The Aldeburgh phenomenon has always been a peculiarly English mixture of the grand and the homely: the stereotype event would have top professional musicians working with children in a village hall to an audience pressed with courtesies. It is an atmosphere that easily survives translation for the occasional gala evening to Covent Garden or, as here, to the Barbican, where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh came for a rather 19th-century, pot-pourri concert, involving Aldeburgh's own Britten-Pears Orchestra of young musicians.

Conducted by Famas Vasary, they got through Schubert's Fifth Symphony without much excitement, but after that the accent was on the soloists: Rostropovich in Tchaikovsky's Rocco Variations, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Richard Watkins in the Britten Serenade, Ileana Cotrubas and Vasary in *Ch'io mi scordi di te*, and Michael Collins in the premiere of an opening movement salvaged from sketches for the clarinet concerto Britten was writing for Benny Goodman in 1942-3.

It is not clear why Britten abandoned this work: possibly because, once he had left the

CONCERT
Paul Griffiths
Aldeburgh Gala
Barbican Hall

United States, Peter Pears and Dennis Brain (for whom he went on to write the Serenade), were a lot closer than Goodman. Nor is it clear whether the movement we heard was planned as such by Britten or has been spliced together by Colin Matthews, who did the editing and expertly Brittenesque orchestration.

At under five minutes it seems a bit short for a concerto first movement, and perhaps a bit relaxed: there is a lot of cheerful scale exercising and not much dialogue, though Matthews has nice things happening in the orchestra, like the prominent harp part or a beautifully blended sequence of wind harmony. Collins gave the piece a happy, effortless baptism.

The other new piece, of a sort, was also an arrangement by a second-generation Aldeburgh composer: Oliver Knussen's charming and lilting version of the National Anthem, led by flutes over harp, pizzicato strings and cymbal sizzles, taking the tune as near a barcarolle as it is likely to get. Here was Aldeburghian grandeur and homeliness in one.

Talent, but little buzz

It is hard to say just what it was about Rambert's opening at Sadler's Wells last night that proved slightly dispiriting, but I was not the only person to come away with a feeling that the company which this year won the first Prudential award for the arts really ought to have been able to create more of a buzz.

There was, after all, the London premiere of Merce Cunningham's *Doubles* on this programme; there was Ashley Page's best ballet, *Soldat*; and there were works by their director, Richard Alston, and the American choreographer Trisha Brown, who has a cult following here. Yet a less than full house generated only limited enthusiasm.

One problem may be the music. Brown's *Opal Loop* uses none, and the first two scores are both essentially imitative. Takahisa Koseki's tape for Cunningham, although jolly enough in short doses, seems somewhat stretched over 25 minutes with its artificial chirping sounds; and Claude Vivier's use of violin, clarinet, percussion and piano to provide gamelan effects in *Pulau Dewata* is ingenious rather than satisfying. But the more fundamental

DANCE
John Percival
Rambert Company
Sadler's Wells

weakness lies probably in the cumulative effect of the choreography. Cunningham's *Doubles* is one of his more austere pieces. Its sparse movement would probably provide contrast with more eventful works on one of his own programmes. Here it starts the evening in a low key, to be followed by *Pulau Dewata*, where Alston offers dramatic entrances and groupings (made more striking by Peter Mumford's shadowy lighting) without much kinetic development.

There is a lot more movement, used in a strikingly individual (not to say chaotic) way, in *Opal Loop*, but this, like the Alston, is a short piece, so there may be dissatisfaction that it is over so soon. All this puts much responsibility on *Soldat*, which Stravinsky's music (the suite from *The Soldier's Tale*), Bruce McLaren's colourful adventure-playground of a setting and Page's inventive, lively and highly theatrical choreography nearly bring off. My slight reservation is in respect of the actual dancing: excellent in parts, but less uniformly so than last year.

Inimitable, invincible

JAZZ
Clive Davis
Ella Fitzgerald
Albert Hall

If this week's concerts are truly Ella Fitzgerald's farewell to London, she is at the very least making her exit with all her dignity intact. Her first night at the Albert Hall found her ebullient, marshalling her resources like a true veteran, yet never giving the impression of coasting.

The voice, inevitably, is no longer what it was. Whereas her pitch was once supernaturally precise, she now often strays off beam. The velvet sheen from the classic *Song Book* album is sometimes replaced by a hoarse, rasping veneer.

Set against that, there is the inimitable phrasing, more than capable of carrying her through "Sweet Georgia Brown", or "Ain't Misbehavin'". The coy, little-girl lost inclusions still lurk below the surface, emerging on the bursts of scat vocals or a phrase lifted from "A-Tisket A-Tasket".

Life as a famous lover can be hell



Silent, snarling collaboration: Mark Kilmurray and Debbie Isitt as Valentino and wife, at the Half Moon

The stars of the screen are the only true immortals. At some point in their lives they stop making new films and an obituary appears in the press, but they themselves carry on exactly as before, unchanged, unchanging, and so it will be until some bug gets into the film stock and gobbles up the magic molecules.

Our intimate knowledge of how the great stars looked, moved, kissed each other, batted their eyelids, screwed half a grapefruit into a girl's face and, after 1927, spoke, sang and grunted, makes it a pretty hard task to represent them on stage. A year or two back, the writers of a would-be thriller about Fatty Arbuckle ducked out of the difficulty by following the Goldwyn line and including him out. A gaping fat hole it left in the show, too.

Radically different is the approach to the Great Lover by the present company, the memorably named Snarling Beasts. Valentino is on stage throughout, in the lithe and handsome person of Mark Kilmurray, and all but a fraction of the action is presented as if it were itself a film. For a start, everything is in black and white: the tiled floor, the directors' chairs, shirtless Valentino in his shabby suit, Andrew McIlwee dressed likewise as the producer Jesse Lasky and sundry other males, Debbie Isitt in black skirt and fringe as Valentino's lesbian wife, and an adoring cow-eyed fan.

The show begins in the style of a Keystone comedy, with the boy Valentino and his dad jousting like a pair of Mack Sennett clowns. A wonderful evocation of a "lost in the storm" tearjerker comes next, as Kilmurray shivers in the New York streets, expressions of despair alternating

THEATRE
Jeremy Kingston
Valentino
Half Moon

with eager and submissive smiles. He never speaks. Once arrived in Hollywood he is pulled between the frightful Lasky and the equally fearsome Natacha Rambova who barks finance and feminism over his oblique frame. His death is unclearly shown, however, and

the show's second half could do with more reminders of his actual films. Kilmurray cleverly and funnily shows him google-eyed reading the script of *The Sheik*, but the objections of Rambova (what a name!) go on, rather.

Exuberantly acted, crisply stylized, wittily physical — watch Isitt smuggling against her hero's shoulder or Kilmurray acrobatically shedding his clothes as though fans were tearing them from his back — the show leaves you feeling that, under his *burnous*, the Immortal Lover was as confused and daft as most of us.

STUDY TOUR OF JAPAN — ESSAY CONTEST 1990

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs invites entries for an Essay Contest from which a limited number of participants will be selected for a two week Study Tour of Japan. The visit will take place some time between 26th August and 7th October, 1990. The object of the Study Tour is to promote understanding and to strengthen ties between Japan and European countries. The tour will offer the opportunity of studying the political, social and cultural aspects of Japan at first hand.

THEME
"Japan-European Relationship in the 21st Century"

LANGUAGE
English, French, German or Spanish

LENGTH
2000 - 3000 words together with a brief summary of the contents, not more than one page in length. Must be typewritten, on A4 size paper (7 or 8 pages).

ESSAYS NOT ACCEPTABLE
Those already written or published, either previously by the entrant or by any other person including joint work.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY
1) Open to nationals of EC countries and people connected with EC organizations who are presently resident in EC countries and must be able to speak fluent English.

2) Participants must be aged between 18 and 34 on 1st April, 1990.

3) Previous winners to Japan are eligible.

4) Front page to include: full name, date of birth, sex, nationality, address and telephone numbers (home and office, or place of education), occupation or place of employment, how you heard of this Contest, whether you have entered previously, and preferred date for the tour (26th August - 7th October, 1990).

5) Entries are non-refundable.

6) Essays will be accepted between 26th March and 10th April, 1990.

7) Three copies of everything including the summary.

SELECTION
Selections will be on the basis of the essay and an interview.

HOW TO BE SENT TO
Mr. Kuroki, Embassy of Japan,
101-104 Piccadilly, London W1V 7BN Tel: 462 6000 Ext. 545

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David Seymour Magnum

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THE ARTS/ROCK

Traditional English folk music romanticized society, writes David Toop, who thinks that "roots music" comes closer to the truth

New routes back to traditional roots

Greatly musical experiences can be tough to endure at the time. Years later, one of life's sweetest pleasures lies in savouring the memories and trying to choose one's worst concert ever. I would have to include a performance of *Tito Forward*, composed by an unknown Yugoslavian and given in the main square of Zagreb.

This is as nothing compared to an evening spent in a Nottingham folk club in 1985. Traditional English folk music has a two-fold capacity for creating awful entertainment. On the one hand, the music is so unvaried. It possesses few of the vivacious instrumental and vocal techniques that entice acoustic musics throughout the rest of the world. On the other hand, the folk audience, at its worst, can be notoriously hostile and defensive. To the outsider, viewing the massed ranks of pewter tankards, Aran sweaters, pipes and pints, their idealization of a pre-World War One England is absurd.

A new breed of musician, based in British folk traditions, but also versed in reggae, post-punk rock and world musics, also rejects this nostalgia for Albion. Tomorrow, BBC 2 will be showing a *Rhythms*

of the World documentary entitled *Can You Dance the Polka?* One member of The Oyster Band, featured in the film, dismisses the bogus ruralism that prevailed in the Seventies, describing it as a "picture of a green and pleasant England that never really existed".

"We're not trying to imitate traditional songs," their fiddle player claims. "That's the worst thing to do. You end up as a kind of electric annex of the heritage industry..." With their vision of England before it was spoiled, some of the folk traditionalists of the Sixties currently find their views echoed by Norman Tebbit, as well as the more grasping nostalgia opportunists. This is surely a bitter pill for them to swallow.

Now that Britain's villagers have been squeezed out of their natural habitat by high-earning urban professionals, even the most staunchly Luddite enthusiasts must find it difficult to use the term "folk music". The term in Britain applies to songs that were almost dead at the beginning of this century, collected and doctored by men like Cecil Sharp, who romanticized the English peasantry. "Roots music" has become the more common usage, then, though even this has its

problems. It could be claimed that the roots of today's popular music lie in recorded music of all types. By this definition, Kylie Minogue's recent rendition of a song from 1958, "Tears on My Pillow", must also be roots music.

Paul James is one half of a multi-instrumental duo called Ancient Beatbox, another of the bands that form the very diverse new folk or roots music scene. James takes a similar view. "What we do is more by instinct than intellect," he claims. "You are influenced by everything you hear." The group was formed when James and hurdy-gurdy player Nigel Eason were commissioned to write music for a production of Christopher Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*.

Now, the sound has evolved into a very contemporary hybrid. At the moment they enjoy listening to Manchester's all-electronic 808 State, but there are clear signs of past interest in the late David Munrow's Early Music Consort of London, as well as folk music from Eastern Europe, Brazil, India and Britain.

"The only thing that's had an impact on the folk scene in recent years is World (World of Music, Arts and Dance festival)," James says. There is no doubt that the



New vision: The Oyster Band is based in traditional folk music, but does not believe in imitating old songs

audience for this broader definition of folk music reveals in the juxtapositions of West African Kora music, Indian dance drama and all the anarchic electro-acoustic groups that have followed in the wake of The Pogues. Their

vision of British society reflects its rich confusions more accurately than the nostalgia of the old guard, and despite what the purists feel, will surely do more to preserve the last vestiges of British traditional culture.

● *Rhythms of the World* is on BBC 2 at 6.30pm tomorrow. The Oyster Band, Ancient Beatbox and several other "roots music" bands will also be appearing on Sunday at the Hootenanny at the Palms. See Weekend Gigs, right.

WEEKEND GIGS

Compiled by David Sinclair, David Toop and Rose Rouse

THE CHILLS: Four-piece melodic pop group from New Zealand who signed to the American label Slash Records last year. Their second album *Submarine Bells*, released on Monday, March 12, is a sensual, graceful and educated collection with titles like "Sweet Times" and "Efflorescence and Deliquescence". University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1 (01-323 5481) Tonight, 7pm, £5.50.

THE HIT PARADE: Julian Henry, the former press officer of Magnet Records, and lovable one-man pop machine, has turned out a string of estimable recordings during the last four years, notably "See You in Havana" and "Wipe Away the Tears", under his mysterious nom de guerre The Hit Parade. This week he will start a "month of Sundays" residency at the Mean Fiddler, his first live shows ever. Acoustic Room, Mean Fiddler, 24-28 Harlesden High Street, London NW5 (01-961 5490) Sunday, 8pm, £3.

MARTIN STEPHENSON AND THE DAINTIES: Gordie singer-songwriter with an impeccably sensitive pop touch. His Dainties deserve at least the kind of success which Prefab Sprout has enjoyed. Plymouth Polytechnic (0752 663337) Tonight, 7.30pm, £5. Exeter University, Stocker Road (0392 263529) Saturday, 7.30pm, £5.

Tegonwell Hall, BIC, Exeter Road, Bournemouth (0202 297297) Sunday, 7.30pm, £5.

HOOTENANNY AT THE PALMS: See the feature, left. This is an unparalleled opportunity to see what the "roots music" scene is all about: exotic fusions, electric polkas, reggae and accordions. Leave the Morris dancing outfit at home. Hammersmith Palais, Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 (01-284 0303) Sunday 3pm-7.50pm (in advance).

LA SONORA DINAMITA: Forget the Lambada. The big craze of the moment is Colombian Cumbia band, La Sonora Dinamita, "dynamite sound", who have been developing their own brand of Latin rhythm for 30 years and who are now visiting London for the first time. Empire Ballroom, Leicester Square, London W1 (01-437 1446), Sunday 7.30pm, £7.50.

THE TROJANS: Gaz Mayall leads this energetic Ska band. Though the much-touted Ska revival never really happened, the Trojans remain loyal to the cause. Dublin Castle, 94 Park Way, NW1 (01-485-1773). Tomorrow, 8pm, £5.

THE ROCKES: Three New York sisters who sing elegant harmonies. Their album *Speak* is just out. Their songs span everything from men to mortgages which they discuss in sharp humour. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (01-580-9562). Today, 7pm, £10.50.

ALBUMS David Sinclair

Sinéad O'Connor: I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got (Erisign CHEN 14)

With her phenomenally successful version of Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U", the scrawny, shaven-headed Irish waif with a voice as clear and bracing as a bright winter's morning turned traditional pop/rock values on their head. That song, which opens her album's second side, delineates a life in emotional tatters. Its static, full-facial video, apart from making her look like a frightened gazelle, steers the listener into the confessional rather than on to the dance floor.

It is a good indication of the collection as a whole, since most of the album's songs progress at roughly the same funeral pace and strike a similarly bleak emotional tenor. "Feel So Different" is a carefully orchestrated pastiche that conveys a mood of introspection born of betrayal. "Three Babies" has distinct religious overtones and a quietly reverential feel, while the title track, which she sings in an uncomfortably exposed *cappella*, is a pure statement of faith, O'Connor's customized version of Psalm 23, with a desert substituting for the valley of the shadow of death.

In the main she gets away with

Irish lark with a soulful song

these intense bouts of post-adolescent profundity by dint of her mesmeric presence. "I Am Stretched Across Your Grave" adapts a traditional Gaelic poem to a shuffling neo-hiphop drum beat, a riveting combination once it has claimed your attention.

Less impressive is "Black Boys on Mopeds", a gratuitous piece of England-bashing that intemperately likens Margaret (sic) Thatcher to the mandarins in Beijing (sic). The Notting Hillbillies: Missing... Presumed Having a Good Time (Vertigo 842571-1) Missing, presumed asleep, would be nearer the mark, given the ultra-laidback feel of Mark Knopfler's jolly-titled, extra-curricular project, which makes Dire Straits come off like Mount Vesuvius by comparison.

Of course, the idea of coralling his old guitar-picking cronies from Leeds — Brendan Croker and Steve Phillips — together with Straits' keyboardist Guy Fletcher, was not to rock out like Status Quo. Rather it was to record some of the most obscure traditional country and western and

gospel/blues material it was possible to find, along with a handful of original compositions in a similarly antiquated vein.

They Might Be Giants: Flood (Elektra 960 907-1) They Might Be Giants, the Brooklyn duo of John Flansburgh and John Linnell, have garnered generous bouquets for their eccentric live shows and for the single "Birdhouse In Your Soul" which has turned hard-bitten Radio 1 DJs into putty in their hands.

Their music is a hyperactive combination of harmony pop, vaudeville, lightweight rock'n'roll and novelty in the grand tradition of such wacky American individualists as Sparks, Stan Ridgway, Klark Kent (aka Stewart Copeland) and Jonathan Richman.

While the sentiments of "Your Racist Friend" are straightforward enough, some of the more abstruse elements of humour — "If I were a carpenter I'd hammer on my piglet" from "We Want a Rock", for instance — leave you wondering if you have been excluded from some in-joke.

Tommy Bolin: The Ultimate... (Geffen 924 248-1) Tommy Bolin was one of rock's nearly men, a gifted guitarist who had the knack of turning up just as the action moved elsewhere. He took over from Joe Walsh in the James Gang, then from Ritchie Blackmore in Deep Purple, but died of "multiple drug intoxication" at the age of 25, before he had been properly able to establish a solo career.

The Ultimate... is a lovingly collated triple-album retrospective that includes work from every stage of his career, including his very earliest days with Zephyr, a bunch of Big Brother and the Holding Company soundalikes, through to an unreleased "bedroom" demo of "Brother, Brother" featuring just voice and acoustic guitar.

Much of it now sounds irredeemably locked in to a Seventies heavy-metal timewarp, but there is one track, an explosive instrumental titled "Quadrant 4" which he recorded with virtuoso jazz-rock drummer Billy Cobham, that still stands as a crowning example of the electric guitarist's art. Dashing off the melody-line with a dishevelled glee then squealing and spluttering into an improvised section of untrammelled splendour, Bolin had for once in his tragically brief life hit the mark exactly on time and with all cylinders firing.



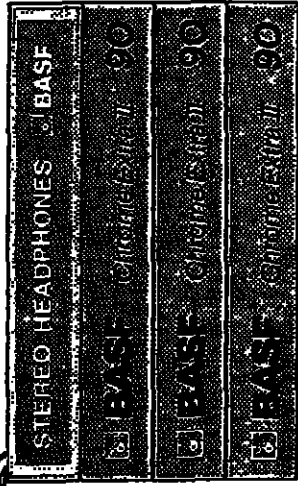
Act of faith: Sinéad O'Connor is clear and bracing as a winter morning

Free gifts from Woolworths.
(But you must come and buy these tapes with nothing on.)



Free head cleaner with BASF Ferro Extra I-90. 5 Pack.

£4.99



Free headphones with BASF Stereo Ferro Extra II-90. 3 Pack.

£4.49

Choosing a new set of speakers can involve you in a heavy-weight decision-making process. So if you're thinking seriously about improving your system, here's a serious offer from Bose.

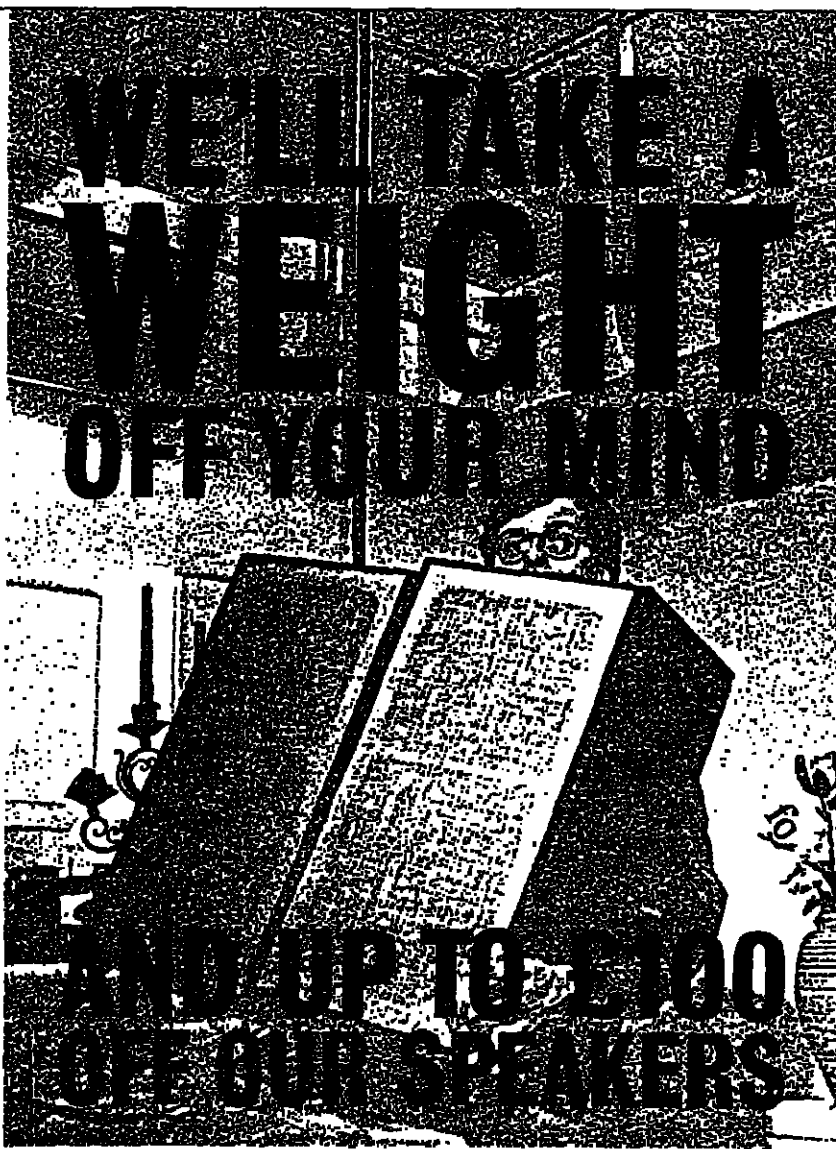
Bring any old speakers into a Bose dealer now and he'll give you £50 off Acoustimass 3 or £100 off Acoustimass 5 in part-exchange.

What is Acoustimass, and how does it work?

Bose Acoustimass speaker systems use two tiny speaker arrays and a larger bass module to produce an extraordinary quality of sound from an unusually well designed package. Whilst low frequencies are handled by the bass module, a pair of satellite speakers use the Bose direct/reflecting philosophy to reproduce the mid-range and upper frequencies.

The end result is a system unique to Bose, that looks great and sounds even better. Why are we making this offer? It is our experience that all Bose speakers need to be heard, and seen, to be believed, and this is especially true of Acoustimass.

In order to soften the not inconsiderable blow to your wallet that Acoustimass ownership represents,



we're making this offer as an incentive to prove to yourself that you can improve the sound of your system by replacing even the biggest boxes with Bose Acoustimass 3 or Acoustimass 5. Can you afford not to take us up on it?



Call the Bose Hotline 0800 306 720.

To find out full details of this offer and the name of your nearest participating dealer, simply call the number above. This offer applies only until April 14th, so call now.

You'll find we can take a weight off your mind, some old speakers off your hands, and improve the sound and look of your hi-fi system.

TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian MaxeyCrafting
a name
in films

Peter Waymark

Fred Zinnemann is not a fashionable name at the moment and his films do not obviously reveal that personal signature which distinguishes the artist from the craftsman. At first glance, it is hard to see what connects movies as disparate as *High Noon*, *Oklahoma!* and *The Day of the Jackal*. Alan Lewens's profile for *Arrest* (BBC2, 9.30pm) sensibly resists the attempt to impose a thesis and opts for the straightforward course of letting



Fred Zinnemann: many stars made their screen debuts in his films (BBC2, 9.30pm)

the subject speak for himself, prompted by clips. Although the approach is stronger on anecdote than analysis, there are recurrent themes and not just Zinnemann's extraordinary record on launching new talent. Montgomery Clift, Marlon Brando, Grace Kelly and John Huston all made their screen debuts in his films. He was also, particularly in his younger days, a bit of a rebel, bold in his choice of subject and prepared to stand up to the studios. Even *High Noon* was a gamble from a director with no commercial track record. To minimize the risk, it was shot in four weeks on a tiny budget. When Zinnemann speaks of Sir Thomas More in *A Man For All Seasons* as being the spiritual cousin of the marshal in *High Noon*, he is alluding to a consistent interest in characters driven by a commitment to passionately held beliefs. Perhaps we have the germ of a thesis after all. The proof must ultimately lie in the films. *High Noon* is showing tonight (BBC2, 11.20pm) and a Zinnemann season continues over the weekend with *The Nun's Story* and *The Sundowners*.

Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie happily acknowledge a comic debt to *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, and Pythonesque elements (such as Fry pretending to be Michael Jackson) are not hard to detect in the new series of Fry and Laurie (BBC2, 9.00pm). And if you start playing the influences game, you would have to include also Tommy Cooper and the Two Ronnies. But Fry and Laurie are clever enough to build on traditions, rather than simply follow them. Time and again they take on the cliché and subvert it. Their psychiatrist's sketch seems to be proceeding on predictable lines, only to blow the audience's expectations apart. There have been many jokes about sports commentators who describe everything except the game. Fry and Laurie take the formula into realms of soaring word-play and fantastic invention and their punchline is a treat.

6.00 *Coastal*
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Laurie Meyer and Jill Dando. Includes regular news headlines, business reports, sports bulletins, regional news, weather and travel information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning newspapers. **8.55** *Regional News* and weather.
9.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Viewers comment on yesterday's television.
9.20 *Karey*. Robert Kiley-Silk chairs a topical discussion with a studio audience.
10.00 *News* and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r).
10.25 *Children's BBC* presented by Simon Parkin begins with *Playdays*. **10.50** *Henry's Cat* narrated by Bob Godfrey (r). **10.55** *Five to Eleven*. Fiona Littlewhite with a reading.
11.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. Jayne Irving and Eamonn Holmes report from the Ideal Home Exhibition which opens tomorrow at London's Earls Court. Plus advice on mortgages and home improvements and the name of the winner of the £50,000 *Radio Times* House Game.

12.00 *News* and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. Alan Titchmarsh is in Poole Harbour awaiting the arrival of the Jubilee Sailing Trust's tall ship *Lord Nelson*, the crew of which includes two physically handicapped and two able-bodied members sponsored by *Daytime Live*. **12.55** *Regional News* and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather. **1.30** *Neighbours*. Henry hears disturbing news about Brown.
1.50 *The Man from Laramie* (1955) starring James Stewart and Arthur Kennedy. A man's search for his brother's killer leads to a showdown with the vicious son of a New Mexico cattle baron. Directed by Anthony Mann.

2.30 *Tom and Jerry Triple Bill*.
3.50 *Is That a Fact?* An exploration of the Northern Ireland legend of *Lost Locket*. **4.05** *Benjamin in the Great Air Race* (r). **4.10** *Jackanory*. Connie Booth with part five of E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web*. **4.25** *New York Bear Show*. **4.30** *Eyespy*. The first of a new series presented by Christopher Rowe.

4.55 *Newsround Extra*. Roger Firth reports on a scheme for a £200 million film-making and leisure complex at Rushmore in Essex. The scheme is meeting opposition from nature lovers who claim that the 1,000-acre site is home for rare birds, plants and animals. **5.05** *Grange Hill*. The final episode and Robbie and Mike are in court. (Ceefax).
5.30 *Children's (r)*. (Ceefax).
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Moira Stuart. Weather.
6.30 *Regional News*.
7.00 *Woman with the Scissors*. David Craveny, Peter Ustinov and the Cuckoo sisters. *Woman with the Scissors*. Plus a song from Ruby Turner.

7.45 *Allo! Allo!* René is ordered by Michèle to photograph German plans for the invasion of Britain, while Edith, her life in danger, disguises herself as her own mother (r). (Ceefax).
8.10 *Whicker's World: Hong Kong* — *Jesus Christ You Fall* Alan Wicker meets former drug addict and heroin addict, rescued by Christian missionaries and converted to Christianity. (Ceefax).
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather.
9.30 *Cartoon*. The first of a two-part murder mystery in which Margery Allingham's celebrated sleuth investigates multiple murders in a judge's house. Starring Peter Davison and Brian Glover. (Ceefax).
10.25 *Concluding the series, a number of Britain's women MPs and other guests debate women's workplace roles in the 1990s*.

11.05 *World Figure Skating Championships* introduced by Barry Davies from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Coverage of the men's free programme and the ladies' original programme.
11.55 *Film: Desperate* (1983) starring Treat Williams. Dramatized adaptation of the autobiography of the boxer Jack Dempsey. With Sam Waterston, Sally Kellerman and Victoria Tennant. Directed by Gus Trikonis.

1.40am *Weather*.

6.00 *TV-am* begins with *News* and *Good Morning Britain* presented by Richard Kay and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. With news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00. After Nine includes Russell Grant with his sun signs.

9.25 *The Pyramid Game*. Quiz show hosted by Steve Jones. **9.35** *Thames News* and weather.
10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...* Mike Scott chairs a topical discussion presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes items on looking and feeling good, pet cars and gardening. With national and international news at 10.55 followed by national weather.

12.10 *Rainbow*. Learning with puppets. **12.30** *News*. **12.50** *News*. **1.00** *News* at One with John Suchet. Weather. **1.20** *Thames News* and weather.
1.30 *It's a Vets Life*. Anna Walker learns why the RSCA can't carry out a campaign for a national dog registration scheme, and vet John Baxter examines some natural remedies for animal disorders.

2.00 *The Bill* (r).
2.30 *Win, Lose or Draw*. Celebrity game show. **3.25** *Thames News* and weather. **3.30** *Sons and Daughters*. Alison finds an unusual way to get her own back on Pamela. **4.00** *Utterly Brilliant*. Timmy Mallett is taken to play the drums by skins man Charlie Morgan. **4.20** *Disney's Duck Tales*. **4.45** *Fun House*. Slapstick game show. **5.10** *Home and Away* (r).
5.40 *News* with Sue Lawton. **5.50** *West*. **6.00** *6 O'Clock News* includes the family of who will be paying one of the highest poll tax bills.

7.00 *Thames News*. A new series in which Lloyd Grossman, offers a guided tour through a celebrity's home, while Chris Tarrant, Alan Coran and Stephanie Calman try to win the show. It is introduced by David Frost. (Oracle).
7.30 *Coronation Street*. Deirdre is warned that being a single parent may endanger her position on the local council and she offers a shoulder to cry on when Tracy wants to see more of her father. (Oracle).
8.00 *Surprise Surprise*. Cilla Black surprises to surprise people at home and at work with national news with long-lost friends or relatives. Followed by *Get Ready for Television* 9.00.

9.00 *The Chase: Game in the House*. Peter's pregnancy has forced Harold Bennett to accept Gorse as his son-in-law but, although he sets him up in a house, he refuses to allow Gorse into the family business. Meanwhile, Gorse finds he may have to take desperate measures to find some money, but Donald Simpson still hounds his every step (r). (Oracle).
10.00 *News at Ten* with John Gail and Julia Somerville. Weather. **10.35** *LWT News* and weather followed by *Get Ready for Television* 9.00.

10.40 *The London Programme*. Trevor Phillips reports on what the poll tax will mean to the public and the politicians who have set it.
11.10 *Beauty and the Beast: The Alchemist*. When Catherine and Vincent learn that a chemist hiding out in the tunnels is providing the police with evidence, they do all they can to put a stop to his lucrative but deadly trade.
12.10am *World Figure Skating Championships*. Nick Owen introduces coverage of the ladies' short programme and the men's free programme.

1.05 *The James Whale Radio Show*. The controversial chat show host challenges people to ring him and drop him. **1.10** *News*. **1.15** *News*. **1.20** *News*. **1.25** *News*. **1.30** *News*. **1.35** *News*. **1.40** *News*. **1.45** *News*. **1.50** *News*. **1.55** *News*. **2.00** *News*. **2.05** *News*. **2.10** *News*. **2.15** *News*. **2.20** *News*. **2.25** *News*. **2.30** *News*. **2.35** *News*. **2.40** *News*. **2.45** *News*. **2.50** *News*. **2.55** *News*. **3.00** *News*. **3.05** *News*. **3.10** *News*. **3.15** *News*. **3.20** *News*. **3.25** *News*. **3.30** *News*. **3.35** *News*. **3.40** *News*. **3.45** *News*. **3.50** *News*. **3.55** *News*. **4.00** *News*. **4.05** *News*. **4.10** *News*. **4.15** *News*. **4.20** *News*. **4.25** *News*. **4.30** *News*. **4.35** *News*. **4.40** *News*. **4.45** *News*. **4.50** *News*. **4.55** *News*. **5.00** *News*. **5.05** *News*. **5.10** *News*. **5.15** *News*. **5.20** *News*. **5.25** *News*. **5.30** *News*. **5.35** *News*. 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TEMPUS

WPP finds No 1 spot a lowly rating

There is a great divide in the advertising industry between the brilliant creative minds who cannot handle the finances and the equally brilliant accountants who cannot understand the creative mind.

Recent events have demonstrated clearly on which side to locate Mr Martin Sorrell's previous employers, the Saatchis. Mr Sorrell's problem, after moving his WPP Group into number one position in the industry, is to show he can steer a straight line down the middle.

WPP remains on one of the more lowly ratings in the agencies sector. A set of excellent 1989 results yesterday, with pre-tax profits rising from £40.3 million to £75.0 million on revenues up by £458 million to £1,005 million, may do little to change this.

Ogilvy Group, acquired in June last year, contributed revenue of £324 million and pre-interest profits of £32.6 million. More significantly, margins at Ogilvy hit 10 per cent, reaching the levels achieved at the J Walter Thompson, and should rise to 12 per cent in 1990.

The market is concerned about the collapse in advertising revenues in Britain and a US downturn. WPP's answer is its spread of businesses — just over half sales and profits come from media advertising — and to its low exposure to the British market, about 7.5 per cent of profits.

The main problem is that with two giant-killing acquisitions behind it, WPP is

into unknown territory. No-one has yet run three full international advertising networks, and the betting is that Mr Sorrell is not about to break this record. But there remains some concern over its next move, as WPP's debts dwindle from the staggering £524 million after Ogilvy to about £450 million by the year-end.

There are suspicions that Mr Sorrell will need all his management skills to keep his creative team once the job market becomes more mobile.

Pre-tax profit of about £113 million this year put the shares, up 9p at 656p, on a p/e ratio of just over 8, while the prospective yield is about 6 per cent. Attractive, for a business with WPP's strong management, but the market may take more convincing.

Ladbroke

Ladbroke's results drew an oddly unenthusiastic response in spite of a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profit and dividends, plus a slightly bigger rise in earnings per share. Against a buoyant market background, the shares shed 1p to 290p.

It is true that profits of £302.2 million were bang in line with City forecasts. But there is little doubt of the market's unease over the jump in gearing from 35 per cent to 59 per cent. Interest charges more than doubled from £24.2 million to £51.3 million. Some £18.6 million was debited against property and a further



Prepared for further tough times: Sir David Alliance, chairman of Coats Viyella, yesterday

£55 million of interest relating to property and hotels was capitalized. Some analysts wonder also about the impact of property sales on the apparently strong performance of the Texas DIY store profits, up £5.6 million to £40.1 million. These were not disaggregated.

Ladbroke points out that its property operation is structured to avoid high-risk projects, and there is a feeling that gearing will return to the mid-40s in percentage terms by the end of the current year. There can be no complaints

about performance in the hotels division, easily the largest profit centre last year. Profits increased from £118.9 million to £167.8 million. Ladbroke is still squeezing more from an increasingly efficient Hilton International chain, and 15 more hotels are being developed. The chain is now 143 strong.

Property clipped in £36 million, against £32.2 million, and Ladbroke's evergreen racing operations, supplemented by Vernons Pools, made a record contribution of £91.9 million against £77.5 million.

Despite yesterday's response, the shares, at a mere 10½ times earnings, are an excellent long-term buy, with the group heading for £345 million of profits this year.

Coats Viyella

At the turn of the century, J & P Coats loomed large on the stock market. Now its successor, Coats Viyella, does not even make it into the top hundred companies quoted in London, despite absorbing a major part of the UK textile industry. Unfortunately, there

is no sign that the long-term decline is about to be reversed. In 1989, Coats made £137 million before tax, £2 million better than in the preceding year, but still £75 million down on 1987. Earnings per share were 1p lower at 15.1p, a third below their 1987 peak.

The underlying performance was even less resilient than overall results suggest. The interest charge nearly doubled from £12 million to £21 million and profits from "housewares" — mainly carpets — halved from £17 million to £8 million. This was offset by a tenfold rise in exceptional income from £1.7 million to £17 million, mainly from disposals.

Sir David Alliance, Coats' chairman, warns that 1990 will also be tough, which analysts interpret as unchanged profits and earnings 1p lower at 14p. That leaves the shares, up 4p at 132p, on a prospective p/e of 9. But even a yield of 9 per cent does not compensate for the indifferent long-term outlook.

Although over half Coats' profits come from thread, where it has a strong position worldwide, half the thread profits arise in South America. The Multi Fibre Arrangement, which protects Coats' UK business, may not be renewed in 1992 and by then there may also be fierce competition from Eastern Europe.

To cap it all, Sir David has not lost his ambition to bid again for Tootal when he is free to do so in June — and the remaining 70 per cent will cost the thick end of £200 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

HIT to underwrite rights issue at CLK

Hillsdown Investment Trust is to underwrite the restructuring of Craton Lodge & Knight, the troubled product development group. HIT will underwrite a 35-for-1 rights issue which will raise £2 million for the company. HIT and the company's new management will subscribe for a further 55 million new shares, raising an additional £550,000.

The restructuring came after CLK ran into difficulties with plans to develop new products in partnership with the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries. CLK's shares were suspended in October. In the year to last September, CLK made a loss before tax and extraordinary items of £935,000.

Rothmans Ind at £8.3m

Rothmans Industries, the Singapore associate of Rothmans International, reports pre-tax profits of Sing\$26.4 million (£8.39 million) for the six months ended December, against Sing\$18.6 million. Turnover rose from Sing\$79.2 million to Sing\$95.9 million. Net earnings turn out at 15.6 cents (10.7) a share.

MTL Group tops £3m

Pre-tax profits at MTL Instruments Group, the Unlisted Securities Market maker of electronic safety and measuring devices, were ahead by 34 per cent to £3.08 million in the year to end-December, on sales up 28 per cent to £11.9 million. Earnings rose 32 per cent to 11.34p and a final of 1.4p makes 2.4p against 2p.

FTI profit falls 30%

Pre-tax profits at Forward Technology Industries, a maker of ultrasonic cleaning to video and audio duplication equipment, fell 30 per cent to £2.27 million in the year to end-December on sales up 18.6 per cent to £42.8 million. Earnings per share are trimmed by 0.1p to 5.9p, helped by a reduced tax rate, while the final dividend is maintained at 1.2p, making an unchanged 1.8p for the year.

The drop in group profits was due to the environmental problems at the cleaning operations caused by chlorofluorocarbons used in the ultrasonic cleaning machines, since overcome by use of aqueous and alcohol systems.

Stratagem in bid success

Stratagem, the investment group, has declared unconditional its £8.2 million bid for Colonnade Development Capital, the investment trust managed by British & Commonwealth. A condition that Stratagem — which has 51 per cent of Colonnade — needed acceptances for 75 per cent, was dropped.

Jameel rules out higher bid

Jameel Group, the Saudi Arabian concern bidding £151 million for Hartwell, the Oxford motor distributor, has ruled out any agreed higher bid if its current 155p a share offer fails. It is trying to add to its 36.6 per cent of Hartwell shares, down 1p to 155p on the news, in the market.

Nichols rises to £8m

The long, hot summer boosted pre-tax profits at J N Nichols (Vintco), the soft drinks group, from £6.55 million to £8.15 million last year, on sales of £49.7 million, up from £39.3 million.

Nichols made a £1.56 million pre-tax profit from disposals and had a £1.57 million post-tax debit from the failure of Alimenta Holdings, the caterer in which it had a stake. Eps rose from 20.9p to 24p, excluding disposal profit. The year's dividend is 10p, up from 8.6p. The shares rose 2p to 240p.

Bank to buy Campbell stake

By Neil Bennett

A two-year-old City firm with only 11 employees is selling a 25 per cent stake in itself for an initial £2 million cash to Mercapital, a Spanish merchant bank.

Campbell Lutyns Hudson, a corporate finance boutique founded in March 1988, is run by four senior City bankers. They are John Campbell, a director of Noble Grossart, David Hudson, the former

chief executive of Henry Ansbacher, Richard Lutyns, the previous head of international equities at Merrill Lynch, and Bill Dacombe, previously the chairman of Rea Brothers, the accepting house.

Together they do most of the corporate financing and placing work although they plan to increase their staff to 14 soon. They intend to use

the money to take stakes in some of their corporate clients and create a larger European network.

Mercapital, a 25 per cent offshoot of Compagnie Financière de Suez, hopes to send most of its British referrals to Campbell.

Mercapital will make further payments for its stake depending on Campbell's profits in the next three years.

Dominion in Southwest stake sale

The administrators of Dominion International Group, the financial services business formerly run by Mr Max Lewinson, have sold their stake in the once-related Southwest Resources group to various institutional clients.

The stake, amounting to 7.5 per cent, was under option to the family trusts of Mr Nigel Wray and Mr Clive Mattock, who agreed to waive rights

Switch to poll tax 'may lift house prices 15%

The switch from rates to poll tax could add 15 per cent to house prices nationally, according to research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the London Business School. It will also change the relative prices of houses in different areas, researchers say.

They say that property in highly-rated areas will tend to gain more in price terms from the switch away from taxation

on housing than less highly rated property will gain.

Mr Bill Robinson, the IFS director, said that the housing market had played a pivotal role in the boom of 1987-88 and the slowdown of 1989-90.

The research shows that house prices are determined in the medium term mainly by personal income, with interest rates of short-term importance.

Reebok contributes £56m as Pentland jumps 19%

By Gillian Bowditch

Mr Stephen Rubin, chairman and joint managing director of Pentland Group, which has a 32 per cent stake in Reebok, the US sports shoe concern, says the teenage craze for baseball boots and sports shoes is helping his business boom.

"A few years ago shoes were seen as an accessory to clothing. Now, among some segments of the community, clothing has almost become an adjunct to shoes. In some places young guys are buying a new pair of Reeboks every six to eight weeks," he says.

Reebok contributed £56 million, about 80 per cent of Pentland's £71.4 million pre-

tax profit for 1989, up 19 per cent. Pentland sales rose from £662 million to £702 million and earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 11.8p.

After paying £50.2 million to shareholders in a reorganization last year, £3.74 million interest receivable has disappeared and the interest charge is now £414,000. The dividend for the year is 0.6p and directors say they would have recommended a dividend of 0.4p for 1988 had the reorganization then been in place.

The Reebok stake, which has a book value of 46p a share, is now worth 110p a

share, 26p more than Pentland's share price — something which irks Mr Rubin. He is conscious of the City's growing impatience over the lack of a major acquisition.

Mr Rubin says that since the deal with Parker Pen fell through, the group has looked at a number of potential acquisitions but prices so far have been too high. Also, it will only consider making a recommended acquisition.

The Pump, Reebok's new shoe, should benefit the group next year, while sales of Kickers in Britain, distributed by Pentland, are expected to rise 300 per cent this year.

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Interest rates begin to bite into retail trade

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

Retailers experienced a slow-down in sales growth last month after January's surprise spurt, providing comforting evidence for the Government that its counter-inflation policy is finally having the desired effect on consumer spending.

This latest indication that high interest rates are biting into demand is welcome news indeed for Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as he seeks to gauge the state of the economy ahead of his first Budget on March 20.

The Confederation of British Industry's quarterly distributive trades survey shows that not only did annual growth in retailers' sales vol-

umes moderate last month, but that a similar growth rate is expected this month. However, it provides no encouragement on prices.

CBI economists see the Government facing the problem of underlying inflation remaining stuck at about 6 per cent, as retailers begin to pass on higher rents, the uniform business rate, and labour market costs.

Retailers reported a "steady" rate of increase in prices last month and expect this to continue. In wholesaling and the motor trades there was even an acceleration following the sharp slowdown seen in the previous quarterly survey.

Then the CBI forecast the Retail Price Index peaking at about 7.5 per cent this year, but this is now likely to be set a percentage point higher. Mr Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI distributive trades panel, said retailers were "generally cautious" about business prospects for the months ahead, as the latest mortgage rate rises start to affect consumers.

"The introduction of the community charge is an added uncertainty which may affect consumer spending patterns over the coming months," he said. The group most likely to be affected will be those young people without mortgages, who have not had the burden

of household rates or mortgage rates.

Seven out of 10 retailers expect no change in their overall business situation in the coming three months. But grocers, specialist food retailers and off-licences and shops selling durable household goods, confectionary, tobacco and newspapers expect some improvement.

Retailers of groceries, books, stationery and durable household goods plan to increase investment over the next 12 months.

However, Mr Whitaker said they would be focusing on improving efficiency and refurbishment, rather than capacity.

Eurobond issue by Daily Mail

Daily Mail and General Trust is to raise £70 million by issuing a Eurobond, against its shareholding in the news agency group Reuters.

The bond, issued at par, carries a coupon of 8% per cent.

Kode slump

Kode International, the computer services firm, slumped into losses of £1.5 million from a pre-tax profit of £409,000, in the year to end-December. The total dividend falls 2.5p to 7.5p by way of an unchanged final of 5p.

Mucklow up

Interim profits at A.J. Mucklow, the Midlands industrial property company, increased by 25 per cent to £5.16 million before tax in the six months to December. Interim dividend is 2.25p (1.855p).

CALA down

CALA, the Edinburgh house-builder, made pre-tax profits of £3.03 million in the six months to December, 17 per cent lower than in 1988. Interim dividend is 1.15p (1.05p).

Strike losses

Strikes and production difficulties at SG Magnet Holdings, Walsaw's £3.7 million acquisition, could cost Walsaw at least £800,000 in lost profits this year.

Drop in beer

Beer production in February dropped 2.6 per cent compared with last year.

Pentos books in at £12m



Terry Maher: will continue to 'undermine support for the stupid Net Book Agreement'

Mr Terry Maher, the chairman of Pentos, has launched his second big incentive against the Net Book Agreement. Dillons, the Pentos bookshop chain, is promoting 50 cut-price children's books, all of which have been published outside the agreement (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Mr Maher said sales of children's books are up 100 per cent on the same month last year as a result of the promotion, which includes several Postman Pat books and books by AA Milne, author of Winnie the Pooh. Before Christmas, Dillons promoted eight cut-price titles including *Millers Antique Price Guide 1990*.

Pentos, which includes the Athens poster shops and

Ryman, the office supply shops, made pre-tax profits of £12.5 million in 1989, up 14 per cent on last year. Sales rose 19 per cent to £143.2 million and earnings per share were up 10 per cent at 9.7p. The annual dividend is up 22 per cent at 2.2p.

Specialist retailing contributed £9.7 million, up 20 per cent on sales of £110.1 million, up 21 per cent. Dillons opened seven bookshops and sales grew 34 per cent. Like-for-like sales at existing shops rose 11 per cent.

Four stores are expected to open this year - the first of these next month at the Kings Road, Chelsea - to take the total to 52. The chain has 7 per cent of the retail book market and Mr Maher has ambitions

to take that to 15 per cent by 1994.

Athena's worldwide sales, including franchisees, were up 25 per cent, with British sales up 23 per cent, with like-for-like sales up 9 per cent. The nine loss-making US Athena shops are likely to be closed this year.

Ryman saw its profits fall below the £2 million achieved in 1988, with sales at Pentos' office furniture division saw profits rise 33 per cent to £5.2 million on sales up 20 per cent at £33.1 million.

Mr Maher said Pentos was continuing to "undermine support for the stupid Net Book Agreement." However, he said he would not break the law. He said he has had letters of support from many publishers.

Partners at JLP see fall in payout

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Tougher times in department store and grocery retailing has cut profits at the John Lewis Partnership and clipped the bonus of its workers' "partners" from last year's level of 22 per cent of salary to 17 per cent.

Partners on average pay will receive a bonus this year of £1,530, against last year's £1,810.

The Partnership, whose chairman is Mr Peter Lewis, is run for the benefit of its 32,000 worker-members who, as well as sharing profits, have their own elected representatives influencing the affairs of the partnership.

Group sales for the year ended last January exceeded £2 billion for the first time, a 7 per cent increase.

Pre-tax profits at £110 million were 16 per cent down on annual comparison, with the partners sharing a bonus payout of £41.2 million.

The Partnership has 23 department stores around Britain, with a new one due to open this year at Kingston, Surrey, together with an enlarged and relocated Trewins of Watford store.

The Partnership also operates 88 Waitrose grocery supermarkets in the Midlands and the South with six super-markets in the pipeline. A city centre department store is planned for Glasgow in 1991. Many sections of the retail trade had faced the worst sales conditions for years, said Mr Lewis.

He gave a warning that an improvement this year was "unlikely unless interest rates are reduced."

It was in the department stores that the Partnership felt the worst of the tougher retailing conditions especially in goods related to the housing market. Sales in the stores rose only 4 per cent in value which meant that in volume terms the stores probably saw a slight drop on the previous year. Waitrose sales were up 9 per cent.

Last year's outlook would have been worse but for the halving to £9 million of annual contributions to the Partnership pension fund.

There were some exceptional costs, notably through moving the London headquarters to Victoria Street and making distribution centre changes. The distribution changes did mean one site was sold off with the profit of £18.6 million being treated as an extraordinary item.

COMMENT David Brewerton A cloudy pint served to Sir Gordon Borrie

The curious partnership of John Elliott and Allen Sheppard, respectively chairmen of Elders IXL and Grand Metropolitan, has thrown down the gauntlet to the brewers' least favourite bureaucrat, Sir Gordon Borrie of the Office of Fair Trading. It was Sir Gordon who kicked Elders' bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries into touch, and it was the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that ruled that further consolidation of British brewing capacity was not in the public interest.

Now Elders and Grand Met are putting forward another brewing merger, which is remarkably similar in its potential market shares to that ruled offside by the MMC. Elders' Courage breweries plus Scottish & Newcastle's various brewhouses would have commanded about 20 per cent of the market. If Courage is now to take over Grand Met's beer factories, then Mr Elliott's flagship, suitably re-named Foster's Brewing Group, would control about 22 per cent of British brewing. He will have acquired by stealth what he was prevented from buying when Elders had wealth.

It is possible that Sir Gordon will take the very reasonable line that the second MMC report, published on the same day the Courage/Scottish & Newcastle bid was sunk, and the subsequent comings and goings between the brewers and the then trade secretary Lord Young, changed the groundrules. With brewing being eased away (slightly) from pub ownership, he may see a case for a second brewing group to keep Bass, the undisputed market leader, under control. It is also possible that the plan to combine the two groups' pubs will be similarly waved through. It is also possible, but equally unlikely, that one of Whitbread's drayhorses will sprout wings and fly to heaven.

Grand Met is obviously nervous,

which is one of the reasons it chose not to fan the embers of the OFT by putting an armlock shareholding on Elliott, although an equal reason was that the stock market didn't like the idea and feared a rights issue to pay for it.

So Grand Met needs a Plan B, in case Plan A is knocked over. This is nowhere near so attractive, because it would be unlikely to find another single buyer for the breweries, largely because it has no credible larger brands to put with them. So they would probably go to those whose brands are brewed under licence, with perhaps the Websters and Ruddells making their own way in the world. And in that case, Grand Met would get even less than the modest £400 million offered by Elliott.

Eaux, what a coup

Voices are being raised about the modest bid by Compagnie Générale des Eaux for the 35 per cent minority of AMI Healthcare. It valued fast-growing AMI at less than 16 times prospective earnings and was below the market price - itself down 13 per cent from the peak as the leveraged bid boom crumbled.

The French group, targeting another sector of privatized public services in Britain, has undoubtedly pulled off another coup while Bupa was locked in the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Why should it offer more than it paid for the majority stake to AMI's cash-strapped parent?

Those who invested in AMI knew they were in a minority and must accept the consequences as another lesson in a long line. The alternative is to stay on as a minority to Générale, hoping for growth, or a higher bid later. Experience of Générale in the battles for private water companies does not suggest this would be an attractive proposition.

Brierley's tasty morsel for City

The stormy relationship between Vickers and its major shareholder is a textbook clash of corporate cultures. Sir Ron Brierley is attempting to enhance a company's value in the way he knows best. By repackaging Vickers into a more palatable morsel for the City, he would undoubtedly do so, but only in the short run. Like Jaguar, Rolls-Royce cars if separately quoted would directly reflect the uniqueness of its brand.

But even Sir Ron might admit that his proposals stand little chance of success. Most of Vickers' shareholders are institutions of the old school, prepared to back existing management until a final offer hits the table.

Nonetheless, shareholders should examine the situation carefully. BAT complained for years that its share price did not reflect the quality of its component businesses. It took an

adventurer like Sir James Goldsmith to jump start the group into a demerger. To a man the City threw up its hands in horror at Sir James' junk-financed break-up plan. But they eventually accepted the logic of its arithmetic.

An independent Rolls-Royce car company would face cash-flow problems not experienced by BAT's offspring, Argos and Wiggins Teape/Appleton. The cost of developing a new motor model is becoming so prohibitive that Rolls may need a parent company simply to provide long-term capital.

Sir Ron argues that the equity market would provide this if the investment was sound. If not, the company would fit better with Ford or General Motors than in Vickers' *mélange* of engineering interests. But for Vickers, the rump without Rolls looks nothing like so robust as BAT less its own disposals.

Eagle Trust prepared for £5m loss this year

The core businesses of Eagle Trust, the engineering and film camera group whose shares were suspended last May, are making annual profits of between £3 million and £10 million a year, Mr David James, the chairman, said.

But interest charges on the holding company's £55 million overdraft, run up two years ago, mean that the group will still report a loss of £5 million in 1990, he said.

Mr James, who was appointed last September, said

that the board was not seeking a relisting of the shares.

The delayed 1988 accounts were published yesterday. Mr James said it was the board's "strongly held view" that the 1987 accounts were wrong. Shareholders' funds for December 1987 have been restated at £37.8 million, £17 million less than the figure originally published.

Eagle went on to make pre-tax profits of £5.5 million in 1988, before non-recurring losses of £54.5 million.

ADT raises holding in Christie's to 10.66%

ADT, the security and auction services group run by Mr Michael Ashcroft from Bermuda, yesterday raised its shareholding in Christie's International, the auction house, to 10.6 per cent from 9.55 per cent. Christie's shares jumped 16p to 336p, near their all-time high.

Yesterday, ADT revealed that income for the year to end-December was 33 per cent higher at £290.4 million. Fully-diluted earnings per share were raised 14 per cent

to 29.0 cents. ADT is also to capitalize some of its reserves with a two for four issue of shares which will take effect from April 17. A cash alternative of 18 cents a share will be offered, a rise of 20 per cent on the previous payout.

Mr Ashcroft, the ADT chairman and president, said "The planned disposals of lower-margin, labour-intensive businesses has finished, allowing management to concentrate on the further development of ADT."

Eight empty chairs

Old grudges clearly die hard in the Smeeths and when 45 one-time partners of Wedd Duracher gathered together for a high-spirited reunion at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Wednesday, eight were noticeable by their absence. The famed "Kleinwort eight," who in July 1985, led by Charlie Hue-Williams, left to join Kleinwort Benson - half-way through Wedd's engagement to Barclays and de Zoete and Bevan - were, I'm told, not invited. Of the 45 who were there - an estimated 10 still with BZW - only five were said to be other than millionaires, and most are now, consequently, enjoying a life of leisure in some considerable style. "I hunt four days a week," quipped Peter Lister to my informant. Putting their efforts to rather more remunerative causes are Nigel Bassett, who now runs an antique shop in Petworth, Ian Stewart-Brown, once head of the gilt trading and now the proud owner of a public house near the Isle of Dogs, and Michael O'Brien, who apparently works for Christie's, valuing and advising on sales in its gun department.

Paul's aboard

Paul Chertkow, former MD and chief international economist at Drexel Burnham Lambert, has been signed up by Citibank as its chief currency strategist, from March 15. Canadian-born Chertkow, with Security Pacific Hoare

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Microgen rubs it in

A number of London brokers, of my distant acquaintance, tucked away a large number of Microgen shares into their personal investment portfolios last year at 240p a piece. They had, they tell me, been acting on a supposedly "hot tip." But after a bad set of figures and a fraud investigation, shares in the computer services bureau have since more or less halved.

Govett before joining DBL a year ago, will be working alongside John Atkin, Citibank's chief economic adviser, with a brief to "provide a dedicated service for customers requiring advice and counselling on currency exposure and currency movements." He will also be the bank's principal European spokesman on economic currency affairs.

Rock bottom

The Queen's popularity in New Zealand is clearly on the wane. The white chair, which she used during the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games, has just been auctioned along with 5,000 other items of memorabilia of the event. It raised just £29.50 - less than a quarter of the chair's value before use.

Still on, by a whisker

Dennis Elliott, the head of sales at UBS Phillips & Drew, is under mounting pressure to shave off his moustache. It is not because of any cleanliness rule that has been introduced by the firm's Swiss parent, but to follow several of his colleagues and raise money for charity. "I am not going to shave mine off," he told me steadfastly, after revealing that two of his men in the equities department, director Philip Elliman, and assistant director Steve Vowles, had ceremoniously had their moustaches and beard - respectively - removed at a barber's shop in Moorgate, thereby raising more than £1,800 for multiple sclerosis. "There are a lot of other people on the trading floor with either moustaches or beards - at the moment - and I think the price of facial hair is now being bid up," Elliott adds, clearly trying to deflect attention from himself. "It does feel a bit strange. I've had a moustache for 20 years," Elliman admits, before confirming that attention was now being focused on hairy-faced colleagues. "Wayne Grossman, who has a moustache, was offered £5 to go into the barber's with us but he backed out, saying he would have to talk to his wife first." As for Elliott - already renowned for charitable marathon running - another colleague, when pushed, concluded: "You'd have to be talking about at least £5,000 if he did it, because clients would want to chip in as well."

Carol Leonard

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TI's first phase of new look pays off with 31% profit rise

By Matthew Bond

The decision to concentrate on specialist engineering is paying off for TI Group. It has reported higher-than-expected pre-tax profits of £111.5 million in the year to December, up 31 per cent on 1988. TI shares, which opened at 438p, jumped 20p on the news.

In the four years since Mr Christopher Lewinton, chief executive, took charge, TI has been transformed. Out have gone familiar brand names like Raleigh, Glow Worm and Creta to be replaced with specialist businesses such as John Crane and Bundy in the United States and Thermal Scientific in Britain.

Mr Lewinton believes the first phase of the strategy embarked on four years ago is complete. "Basically we have completed that phase. When we started on it we had £85 million of debt on the balance sheet. Now we have got cash."

The figures show that TI has net cash of £45.3 million, compared with borrowings of £40.7 million at the end of 1988. But Mr Lewinton feels under no pressure to rush into a big acquisition and is pleased that most of the improvement in profit came from organic growth.

"I do not feel any sense of urgency to have to do something. The opportunity is the

issue, at the right price." However, he acknowledged that the arrival last October of Mr Sidney Taylor, as managing director, is leaving him more time to review "strategic opportunities."

The improvement in profits was achieved despite a reduction in turnover, down from £959 million to £927 million.

The pre-tax profit figure is boosted by a £6.7 million pension credit, a result of surpluses in the company's pension schemes. Without the pension credit, the improvement in pre-tax profits would have been 25 per cent.

Earnings per share rose by 29 per cent to 49p, while the final dividend of 11.75p (8.75p), taking the total to 17.5p (13.5p), an increase of 30 per cent. Operating margins improved from 9.3 per cent to 11.4 per cent.

Last September TI announced a "strategic alliance" with Mannesmann, the West German group, which acquired a 5 per cent stake in TI. This alliance is working well, says Mr Lewinton, with three joint marketing projects under way. The two are establishing a management team under the Mannesmann name to develop opportunities in eastern Europe. Joint acquisitions are also being considered.



Engineering a transformation at TI Group: Christopher Lewinton, chief executive, yesterday

Slight rise at Cussins Property

Buoyant house sales in the North helped Cussins Property Group, the residential and commercial developer, to trading profits of £4.2 million, up 53 per cent. But pre-tax profits in the year to December were £2.75 million, only marginally ahead.

The final dividend is 5.5p (5.1p) giving a total of 9.25p, 12 per cent up on 1988.

Profits down

Microvitec, the dealing-room screen supplier, has suffered a £488,000 drop in pre-tax profits to £1.27 million for the year to end-December and has cut its final dividend 25 per cent to 0.75p leaving the total at 1.5p (1.75p). Turnover increased to £32.1 million (£28.3 million).

Ben Bailey up

Ben Bailey Construction, the Yorkshire housebuilder, increased interim pre-tax profits 47 per cent to £1.05 million for the six months to December. The dividend stays at 0.5p on earnings per share of 6.59p.

Ibex downturn

Pre-tax profits at Ibex Holdings, the Birmingham recruitment agency, fell to £1.9 million (£2.2 million) in the year to December. A final dividend of 1.9p makes 3.8p compared to a nil payment last time. Earnings per share 10.63p (11.26p).

Airbus predicts 5,500 more craft in next 20 years

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Airlines are expected to add another 5,500 aircraft to their fleets over the next 20 years to meet the predicted demand for air travel. But, unless they are able to land and be guaranteed a slot along the air routes the new aircraft could become a waste of assets.

In *Market perspectives for civil jet aircraft*, a survey of the future demand for air travel, Airbus Industrie predicts that 24 airports in Europe and 59 in North America will be forced to halt further growth by the turn of the century and says that there is now only room for "marginal opportunities for future growth in flight frequency."

The report — which matches a similar survey by Boeing this week — says that a continued growth in the world economy, together with a steady fall in air fares and a move towards more than one holiday a year, will lead to a steady increase in demand of about 5.5 per cent a year. Some of this will be covered by an increase in the size of aircraft leading to a rise of about 3 per cent a year in the aircraft being flown.

Airbus — which has nearly 1,000 firm orders for aircraft to be delivered over the next six years — claims that manufacturers will be able to meet

the increased demand for the new jets, but says: "In the absence of any significant change in current administrative policies, the risk exists that future air traffic will encounter some sort of self-limitation which could reduce the forecast traffic growth by one percentage point a year."

The problem is not confined to Europe and America. "The few improvements planned so far in Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are not enough to accommodate the forecast traffic growth in that region."

The Airbus forecast has not been able to take into account the demand for travel to Eastern Europe or the rush by airlines from those countries to buy equipment from the West.

Even so, it claims that many people may be forced to switch to trains for short journeys and that scheduled flights may take over from charter operations for the growing number of leisure passengers. By the turn of the century about 80 per cent of all travellers will fly on leisure or holiday and not because of business, it says.

Airlines are likely to order more than 12,000 jets worth \$700 billion over the next 20 years of which just under half will be replacement aircraft.

Securities rules are too tight, say City bankers

By Neil Bennett

More than two-thirds of the City's senior bankers believe the present securities regulations are too tight, while almost half of Europe's bankers think that regulators are unable to keep pace with financial innovation.

A new survey by Price Waterhouse of more than 130 of Europe's top financial institutions and their attitudes to the new regulatory environment, has shown the depth of feeling against The Financial Services Act.

Almost a third of the bankers interviewed said they felt the regime was unnecessarily constraining, compared with an average of 12 per cent in other European countries.

By contrast, on the Continent 22 per cent of managers

thought rules were too lax, compared with only 4 per cent in London.

Britain, however, won top marks for opening its financial markets to foreign competition. Only 2 per cent of replies thought its efforts were poor, compared with 25 per cent in West Germany and 82 per cent in Japan.

PW's survey also showed that almost half the managers are worried that regulators are falling behind with financial innovations, and risk management products in particular.

They are also concerned about the level of knowledge about the new EC rules. Forty per cent thought staff awareness of the new laws was deficient, against 29 per cent on the Continent.

Dividend doubles at Baynes

By Philip Pangalos

A combination of strong organic growth and acquisitions at Charles Baynes, the specialist engineering and distribution group, resulted in pre-tax profits surging from £1.68 million to £4.1 million in the year to end-December.

Earnings per share rose by 67 per cent to 3.06p. The final dividend is up to 0.75p (0.50p), making a doubled total of 1p for the year.

Mr John Perkins, the finance director, said last April's £10 million acquisitions of Harris & Edgar and Heath Packaging Group gave a £1.1 million boost to pre-tax profits while adding about £14 million to group sales. Group turnover advanced by 82.7 per cent to £40.9 million.

H&H and Heathpac have annual sales of about £21 million.

Mr Bruce McInnes, the chairman, said the company had started the year with record order books and a highly satisfactory performance is expected in 1990. The shares firmed by 2p to 34p.

Dares falls after policy is changed

By Our City Staff

Turnover at Dares Estates, the former property trading company, plummeted from £78.6 million in 1988 to £20.4 million in the year to December, following the board's decision to concentrate on investing in property rather than selling it.

As a result of the switch in emphasis, net assets per share grew from 30.3p to 42.4p a share. The shares closed unchanged at 23p, on a discount to assets of 46 per cent.

Interest charges rose by 31 per cent to £4.2 million but were well covered by a 57 per cent increase in rental income to £7.2 million.

Together with a £621,000 loss sustained on a West End commercial investment held jointly with Shaftsbury and £668,000 of losses on residential joint developments, the increased interest charge reduced pre-tax profits to £9.1 million — down 27 per cent.

A final dividend unchanged at 1p a share takes the total distribution to 1.5p a share (1.3p). Shareholders' funds rose 31 per cent to £108.7 million.

Hong Kong props flagging economy

From Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

Sir Pier Jacobs, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, has proposed sweeping tax increases on dutiable goods to keep the budget in surplus.

He predicted a fiscal surplus of HK\$720 million (£56.2 million) for 1990-1991, against HK\$9.3 billion this year and a record HK\$16.8 billion in 1988-89.

The sharp decline is a result of Hong Kong's economic slowdown, a rise in Government spending and falling export revenues.

Sir Piers expected the economy to expand at a rate of 3 per cent in the coming year, against this year's 2.5 per cent but a far cry from double-digit growth in the mid-1980s.

Domestic exports are expected to rise by 2.5 per cent in the coming year, and trade with the United States — Hong Kong's biggest market —

should improve after two years of decline. Sales to Britain, however, may suffer.

Re-exports, contributing the bulk of Hong Kong's trade revenues, are forecast to grow by 8 per cent against 19 per cent this year mainly because of a weakened market in China, the crown colony's largest trade partner.

A visible trade surplus of HK\$6.5 billion is forecast, although the growth rate for imports, at 6.4 per cent, will be higher than that for total exports, at 5.7 per cent.

Inflation, which reached 10 per cent in 1989, is expected to fall to 8.5 per cent, and despite strong pressure on costs, reserves are set to reach HK\$71 billion by the end of 1990-91. But Sir Piers has no plans to cut personal or corporate taxes or drastically boost capital spending in his budget.



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TRADE INDEMNITY PLC

Steel sector on its own as crisis ends, says EC

From Michael Binyon, Brussels

The great steel crisis in Europe is over — and that is official. The European Commission announced this week that five years of drastic slumping and modernization had produced a healthy steel industry throughout the European Community, which could now face the full blast of world competition.

Steel production is on line to rise by 5 per cent between 1988 and 1995, and a healthy economic climate will keep demand buoyant. The Commission believes that steel companies no longer need government protection, and decisions on investment and capacity must be made by the businesses themselves.

The restructuring in the industry — which involved painful relocations and closures in many countries — has cut the total number of jobs from 870,000 in 1975 to 409,000 in 1988. Production capacity dropped from 194.5 million tonnes in 1980 to 165

million in 1988. And more than 21 billion European currency units (£13.8 billion) were invested between 1982 and 1988, with the steel industries in the 12 EC nations receiving about 40 billion Ecu in state aid between 1980 and 1988.

The Commission study is part of a long-term review of the sector, and EC industry ministers will be asked at their meeting in May to approve moves to deregulate the steel industry and allow it to stand on its own feet.

Brussels wants a much stricter policy on state aid, and says steel companies should no longer be able to count on EC assistance for market organization at a time of economic stability.

In return, however, the Commission will fight hard at the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks to establish a level playing field in the steel market. It will also press other

competitors to remove state aid and tariff barriers.

According to the rates of economic growth, Brussels sees two scenarios for steel over the next five years. If things go well, production will rise from 137 million tonnes in 1988 to 143.3 million in 1995, with a capacity utilization rate of 74.7 per cent. The less optimistic picture gives a total output of 138.3 million tonnes, 74.4 per cent of maximum capacity.

Greater efficiency and new production techniques, however, have meant that a plant can be profitable running at only 70 per cent capacity, against 80 per cent previously, the study says. Demand will probably rise by about 3 per cent to 114.7 million tonnes in 1995, against 111.7 million in 1988. But there may be a slight dip to about 110.7 million in 1992. Nevertheless, the EC will remain the world's second largest steel producer.

For the first time, Brussels insists the steel industry should do more to protect the environment and fight against pollution. This must be taken into account when new investments in the industry are approved.

The Commission also suggests the European Coal and Steel Community's traditional spending on the social costs of laying off workers should be more broadly interpreted: money should also be spent on training new workers.

Meanwhile, EC members have finally agreed a compromise on the rate of liberalization on imports of steel products for this year. The rate of increase in quotas was fixed at 15 per cent.

The Commission is to negotiate the renewal of arrangements with Brazil and five East European exporters. It will also hold consultations with steel exporters in the European Free Trade Association — Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

Saab looks to tradition as US 'car wars' intensify

From Derek Harris, Geneva

Saab Automobile, the 50-50 joint venture between General Motors of America with management control and Saab-Scania of Sweden, is still being badly hit by the US "car wars" with both domestic manufacturers and importers said to be losing money.

From a peak 48,000 annual sales two years ago, Saab in the US has come back to 31,000, a drop of just over 35 per cent. Losses in cars in 1989 halved Saab-Scania's group profits.

But Mr David Herman, the General Motors executive, who is now chief executive officer of Saab Automobile, created last December, believes the Saab car operation should be back in profit by the final weeks of next year.

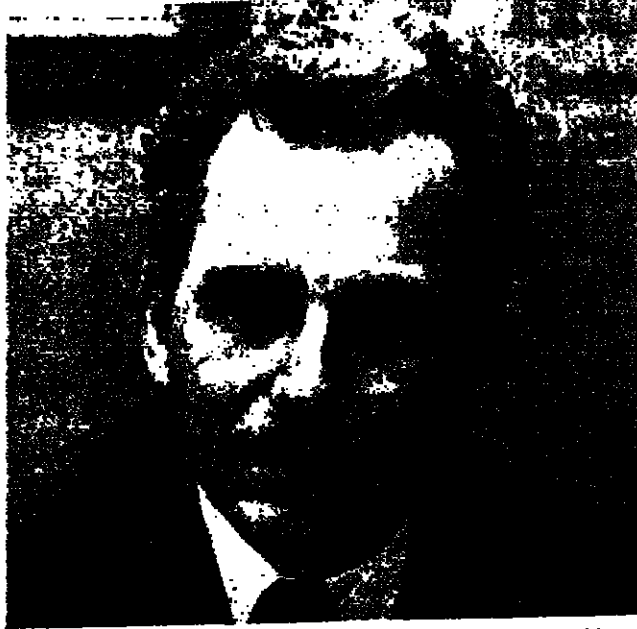
He does not underestimate the fierceness of the US car wars and believes there could be another year or more of such competition. But he is counting on substantial productivity gains — as much as 20 per cent — at Saab's plants as planned workforce reductions mount.

Big gains are also expected through the adding of General Motors' buying power for materials and components.

Saab sales are also going well elsewhere with European totals outside Scandinavia up by 5 per cent and Britain at a record. Mr Herman also believes markets like France and Germany are in their infancy.

But Saab is 30 per cent reliant on the US as an outlet for its production which is running at 100,000 units a year against a possible capacity of 180,000 units.

Mr Herman said: "We ab-



On road to profit: David Herman, Saab Automobile president

to the US. Two years ago Saab profited from \$wK9.2 to the dollar while now it is \$wK6.2.

Saab's sales plunge in the US appears to have been compounded by its attempt with the Saab 9000 to produce a mainstream car in looks unlike its older stablemate, the 900. Saab fans have long regarded the 900 as the last "real" Saab even though inside the 9000 still spells Saab, especially its sporty handling.

Now Mr Bob Eaton, president of General Motors Europe who carried through the GM deal with Saab-Scania to create Saab Automobile, has launched a new slogan: "It's not a Saab unless it looks like a Saab." Hence design will stay exclusively with Saab's own engineering team to ensure the integrity of the Marqu.

Adverse currency movements have hit all the European car producers exporting

HK banks hit by turmoil in China

From Luke Yu, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's banks have been feeling the effects of an economic downturn caused by the political turmoil in China.

The Hang Seng Bank, the second largest quoted bank, reported an 18.5 per cent rise in profits to HK\$1.82 billion (£141 million) after tax and transfer to the secret reserve.

The increase was slightly lower than expected and forecasts a similar growth rate for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp, its blue-chip parent, which announces its 1989 results next week.

Wardley, the Hongkong Bank's merchant banking arm, also showed lower than forecast net profits, which rose 10 per cent to HK\$520 million from HK\$473 million in 1988.

Mr Bernard Asher, Wardley's chief executive, said he was encouraged by the results. "This time last year we were concerned that it would not be possible to maintain our strong performance, but in the event 1989 was another record year."

Amid rising costs, a severe brain-drain and uncertainties surrounding Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, there have been fears that banks would enter a difficult period.

While giving their thumbs up to the Hongkong Bank, with its diversified asset base overseas, most analysts are revising downward their profit forecasts for smaller banks.

Hang Seng's group assets were HK\$175.5 billion at the end of December, compared with HK\$130 billion. Earnings per share rose 19 per cent to HK\$2.21 and the total dividend is HK\$1.20.

Buoyant demand lifts UES to £67m

By Our Industrial Editor

United Engineering Steels, Europe's leading producer of specialist steels for manufacturing industry, has brought in pre-tax profits 27.7 per cent ahead at £67.3 million on sales up 19 per cent at £214 million.

UES, jointly owned by British Steel and GKN, and based in Yorkshire, enjoyed a 44 per cent rise in its 1988 pre-tax profits on sales up 19 per cent.

Demand continued at a

higher level than had been anticipated, said Mr Ian Donald, the UES chairman. It was the best year of the last decade for engineering steels, with demand at peak levels from the automotive, oil-related and aerospace markets in Britain and on the Continent.

UES delivered 1.95 million tonnes of steel products last year, up 6 per cent, with exports up to 33 per cent of

production, said Mr John Pennington, the chief executive. However, Mr Donald gave warning that the 1989 demand might prove "a temporary high water mark."

He said: "The last quarter showed signs of a slowdown in some sectors of the home market and in the United States." A decline could set in as customers reacted to continuing high interest rates, he

said, stressing that excess capacity still remained within UES and in Europe generally. But he added: "More can be done internally to offset these adverse pressures to improve our results in the short term."

Productivity also improved, with output per employee in the main steel divisions up 9 per cent in the period.

UES is expected to start paying a dividend next year.



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TI Group — Full Year 1989

Pre-tax profit	£111.5m	UP 31%
Earnings per share	49.0p	UP 29%
Dividend	17.5p	UP 30%

For further information about the TI Group, contact the Department of Public Affairs, TI Group plc, 50 Curzon Street, London W1Y 7PN.

The contents of this advertisement, for which the directors of TI Group plc are solely responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by Price Waterhouse as authorised persons.

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TI GROUP

Warner conflict threatens Pathé deal with MGM

Los Angeles (Reuter) — Pathé Communications Corp's agreement to acquire MGM/UA Communications, the Hollywood film studio, may face a serious obstacle because of disagreement over a theatrical distribution deal, analysts said.

Pathé and MGM have entered a five-year agreement under which MGM would distribute Pathé Entertainment films in the US.

However, Warner Bros studio, part of Time Warner, said it had a prior distribution agreement with Pathé.

Asked about the deal between Pathé and MGM/UA, Mr Rob Friedman, a spokesman for Warner Bros, cited a statement issued this week by Warner, which said: "Several months ago, Warner Bros and Pathé Entertainment reached agreement on a distribution deal, covering the first five

years of Pathé's productions for the US and Canadian theatrical and video marketplace. The key executives of both companies announced that agreement on several occasions and have all been actively engaged in the process of implementing the marketing of their first films."

Mr Friedman said he was not aware of any legal action taken on the distribution deal with Pathé.

Pathé declined to comment on its relationship with Warner.

Mr Mark Manson, an analyst with Donaldson, Lufkin, Jenrette, said: "We don't know how many movies Pathé is going to make, or if they are going to be successful. But one thing that has been clear in the entire business is — production companies come and go, distribution companies stay."

Woodchester plans European growth

By Neil Bennett

Woodchester Investments, the Irish leasing group, is planning wide expansion in Europe with Credit Lyonnais its new 29.8 per cent shareholder. It hopes to have operations in at least five continental countries by the end of the year.

Mr Craig McKinney, chairman of Woodchester, is believed to be discussing ways of using Lyonnais' banking network to sell its leasing packages. The French bank bought its stake from British & Commonwealth last December.

Woodchester was reporting pre-tax profit for the 1989 up 47 per cent to Ir£26.4 million (£25.1 million) while gross rentals rose 80 per cent to

Ir£270 million. A final dividend of Ir£1.50p, up from Ir£1.13p, makes Ir£2.50p, up a third.

Woodchester's leasing book grew strongly due to the growth in the Irish economy. Half its business is still motor leasing, with the remainder in a range of small to medium-ticket industrial equipment.

Profits were reduced by about Ir£500,000 by the weak pound at the end of the year.

The group has protected itself against interest rate rises by swapping floating rate debts for fixed loans, but margins suffered from increased competition in the leasing market.

BANK OF SCOTLAND INTEREST RATES

Bank of Scotland announces the following changes in interest rates with effect from 9th March 1990:

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Stabilised Charging Rate	15.70% per annum

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The prices in this section refer to Wednesday trading.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

COMMODITIES

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2	Tipstock	Transport	
3	BAT (ns)	Telecoms	
4	Joseph (Leopold)	Finance/Discount	
5	Cometair (ns)	Travel	
6	Calsonic	Transport	
7	Bulley (Bent) Center	Building/Roads	
8	Unilever	Electronics	
9	Unilever (ns)	Electronics S-2	
10	Reaser PLC (ns)	Electronics A-D	
11	Sater	Electronics S-2	
12	Ascom	Chemicals/Plas	
13	Unilever (ns)	Electronics	
14	NMC Group	Electronics L-R	
15	BET Ord (ns)	Electronics A-D	
16	Bentford Int (ns)	Food	
17	Hansen (ns)	Electronics E-K	
18	Red Int (ns)	Electronics Pub	
19	Ames	Building/Roads	
20	McKintosh	Electronics L-R	
21	Color Go	Electronics	
22	Simon Eng	Electronics S-2	
23	Scott & Robertson	Electronics S-2	
24	Calsonic-Schwey (ns)	Food	
25	BIS	Electronics E-K	
26	Smith Int (ns)	Electronics S-2	
27	Costa Vella (ns)	Electronics S-2	
28	Hawley Siddy (ns)	Electronics E-K	
29	Ragby Group	Building/Roads	
30	Polly Pack (ns)	Food	
31	JVS	Electronics	
32	Alfred Jones (ns)	Electronics L-R	
33	Pittman (ns)	Building/Roads	
34	Exord	Electronics A-D	
35	Cookson (ns)	Electronics A-D	
36	Bowser	Electronics A-D	
37	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building/Roads	
38	Doh	Electronics	
39	New Corp	Electronics Pub	
40	Phone (ns)	Electronics E-K	
41	Mowlem (John)	Building/Roads	
42	Low Group	Electronics Pub/Adv	
43	Low Int	Electronics L-R	
44	Geonell Wint	Electronics	

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High	Low	Share

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS		
High	Low	Share

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INDEX-LINKED		
High	Low	Share

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP		
High	Low	Share

ELECTRICALS		
High	Low	Share

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Bear squeeze continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 26. Dealings end today. Contango day is Monday. Settlement day is March 19. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 27)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

BREWERIES						
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS						
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FINANCE, LAND						
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS						
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FOODS						
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L-R						
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S-Z						
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS						
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DRAPERY, STORES						
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HOTELS, CATERERS						
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INDUSTRIALS A-D						
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S-Z						
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OVERSEAS TRADERS						
High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

© Ex dividend or Ex all to Forward dividend or Forward payment received? From a company's share and dividend records a special payment is Pre-emptive Shares or Forward earnings or Ex other or Ex rights or Ex scrip or share split or Tax-free. No significant date.

On a journey without maps

The compass and the rotation sensors

If the urban systems being built at present can be integrated into national systems, and those national systems joined together, it will be possible to drive all over Europe without a man.



export markets. Sales in Europe are up 12 per cent to 1,531, in the United States up 5 per cent to 2,998 and in Japan more than doubled to 355.

RCYCLE

*Vehicles auctioned recently by Phillips including an example of a 1949 Aston Martin DB1 dhc.
Sold for a record price of £94,000.*

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Burglary inappropriate alternative to robbery

Regina v Maxwell
Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle (Speeches March 8)

The prosecution had been entitled to take the view that their case against the appellant on a charge of robbery was so strong that it would be inappropriate to add an alternative count of burglary, and the judge had been entitled not to leave the alternative of theft to the jury.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by Andrew Robert Maxwell from the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Mustill, Mr Justice Finkelstein and Mr Justice Tugendhat).

Mr Maxwell, with Webster, Simmonds, Robert King and John Lewis, had been charged with burglary and with conspiracy to commit burglary. The case against Maxwell had been dismissed.

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down, while one of the men had gone upstairs and collected £400 in cash from a holiday and the other had left after ripping out the telephone.

Two of those men had been Lee Simmonds and Peter Webster, who had subsequently pleaded guilty to robbery. It was undisputed that during the evening prior to the robbery Maxwell had made an arrangement with Webster and Simmonds to burglarise the house of the Coles family that a group of men would enter the Richardson's house and take the discs and the money and be paid £1,500 for their trouble.

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conceded before their Lordships that they had been misled by evidence against Maxwell to justify a verdict of guilty of robbery.

About an hour after the jury had retired, they had returned with the question: "We would like to know if there is a lesser charge that we can bring against Maxwell and ... Coles other than robbery?"

The judge had answered: "Members of the jury, the answer to your question is 'No'. Burglary is not an alternative, and you should concentrate on the charge that the men face which is one of robbery."

After a further retirement of three and a half hours, the jury had returned with a verdict of guilty.

The judge's answer to the jury had only been correct *quod* burglary. The jury had been entitled in law on an indictment for robbery to return a verdict for the lesser offence of theft.

It was important to record that the Court of Appeal, having carefully analysed the summing up and the directions given by the judge, had been satisfied (1988) 1 WLR 1265, 1268 that:

"The jury must have been in any doubt that they should be sure before convicting that Maxwell intended whoever he hired to commit the burglary with violence."

That finding was not criticised by Mr Holland. The judge had firmly focused the jury's attention on the question whether or not Maxwell had been party to the violence.

Before the Court of Appeal, it had been urged that the indictment made forced the jury to make a wholly artificial choice between convicting Maxwell of robbery and acquitting him.

That contention seemed to have been accepted by the Court of Appeal, but his Lordship doubted its validity. It was the responsibility of the prosecution to frame the charge as they thought appropriate.

It seemed to his Lordship that they had been entitled to submit that they had established a strong prima facie case of robbery and that the jury should be distracted from concentrating on the ingredients of that offence by the introduction into the trial of the lesser offence, which had been inappropriate in their view on the facts that they had already established.

His Lordship would assume, without deciding, that even though the indictment was not defective, the judge had power to amend it (see section 5(1) of the Indictments Act 1915).

It had further been submitted to the Court of Appeal that the judge should, in response to the jury's question either have directed them that a conviction for theft was open on the charge of robbery or have conveyed to them explicitly that, although an acquittal might be a logical result, they should not allow that to deter them from considering objectively whether the evidence made them sure that Maxwell had intended to rob.

Otherwise, it had been submitted, there would have been a risk that the jury might have been driven to compromise with the standard of proof rather than see Maxwell escape unpunished for the offence he had committed.

The judge had accepted that contention, but they had concluded (at p1271) that "we find no vitiation of the verdict as to robbery or as to the charge of conspiracy to commit robbery."

Visa nationals required a prior visa before coming here. One could not get a visa on the basis of being a refugee in the country of origin.

His Lordship said that the first of those reasons was of general importance since refugees frequently escaped from oppressive circumstances to the United Kingdom and it was reasonable to expect them to apply for asylum in Brazil.

The applicants contended that they obtained the Brazilian visas by deception from the authorities in Beirut, that they never intended to go to Brazil, that they had no connection with Brazil and that if that had been the truth to the Brazilian authorities about how they obtained the visas, those visas would be invalidated and the Brazilian authorities would send them back to the United Kingdom as the first safe country they reached after leaving Lebanon.

His Lordship accepted that, on the assumption that the judge had been correct in giving no direction to the jury that a conviction of theft was open to them, it would have been better if he had assessed them further by emphasising that it was the prosecution who had brought the case, that it was their responsibility to consider how to frame the charge and that, since they had decided to limit the indictment to robbery, the jury had to confine their attention solely to whether or not they were sure that Maxwell was guilty of that offence according to the law as it stood.

His Lordship was right in concluding that the prosecution's refusal to amend the indictment by adding a count of theft was a failure to do so, but he thought that it must follow that, on the facts of the case, the judge had been entitled to conclude that the alternative of theft was relatively so trifling that the jury's attention on the essential issues had not been distracted (see *R v Fairbanks* (1986) 1 WLR 1202).

Accordingly, in agreement with the Court of Appeal, his Lordship could find no vitiation of the verdict as to robbery or as to the charge of conspiracy to commit robbery.

What was required in any particular case, where the judge had failed to leave an alternative offence to the jury, was that the court should be satisfied that the judge had not acted out of a reluctance to see the defendant get away with what, on any view, had been disgraceful conduct. If they were so satisfied, then the conviction could not be set aside.

His Lordship said that he accepted that the Home Secretary believed that Brazil ought to take asylum responsibility for the applicants since the Brazilians had issued visas to them.

While it might be (although his Lordship had substantial doubts) that such a belief was one which the secretary of state was entitled to come, no reason had been suggested for him to believe that the applicants would, as opposed to should, be admitted to Brazil.

If the Home Secretary did believe that, then such belief had no basis so far as the evidence before his Lordship existed and his decision was one which the secretary of state could not lawfully come.

In the absence of such belief and of grounds for such belief, the removal directions and they would therefore be quashed.

Since in making his decisions not to consider the asylum applications, the secretary of state had clearly believed that valid removal directions would be issued to him, his Lordship said that the decision refusing to consider the asylum applications had failed to take into account what ought to have been taken into account.

Coroner justified in not calling RUC men

In re McKerr
Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle (Speeches March 8)

Coroners rules in Northern Ireland providing that a person suspected of causing the death, or charged with or likely to be charged with an offence relating to the death, should not be called as a witness, were not beyond the powers of the enabling Act.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the Attorney General for Northern Ireland from the decision of the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal (Sir Brian Hutton, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice O'Donnell and Lord Justice Kelly) in December 1988 to allow an appeal by the respondent, Mrs Eleanor McKerr, from Mr Justice Carruthers, who, in November 1988, had decided, on Mrs McKerr's application for judicial review, to set aside the decision of the Coroner for Armagh, Mr J. H. S. Elliott, to admit the written statements of three persons in evidence.

Mr Brian Kerr, QC and Mr Nicholas Hance, QC (both of the Northern Ireland Bar) for the Attorney General; Mr Reginald Treacy, QC and Mr Seamus Treacy (both of the Northern Ireland Bar) for Mrs McKerr.

LORD GOFF said that the inquiry had opened on November 14, 1988, at Craigavon Courthouse before the coroner and a jury into the deaths of three men.

The undisputed cause of their deaths had been that they had been killed by shots fired by members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary on November 11, 1982. Mrs McKerr was the widow of one of those killed.

Three members of the RUC (referred to as A, B and C) had been charged with, tried for and acquitted of the murder of another of the deceased men before the inquiry.

At an extraordinary meeting on October 27, 1988, the coroner had told those present, including legal representatives of the interested parties including Mrs McKerr, that A, B and C did not, as persons suspected of causing the deaths of the deceased and having been charged with an offence relating to one of those deaths, wish to give evidence at the inquiry.

At the opening of the inquiry, he had informed the jury that he proposed to admit in evidence written statements made by A, B and C relating to the circumstances in which the deceased had been shot.

Objection to that course had been made on behalf of Mrs McKerr, who had then sought to challenge the coroner's decision by way of judicial review.

Chief Justice, "regulate the practice and procedure at or in connection with inquests and post-mortem examinations".

Mrs McKerr contended that paragraphs (2) and (3) of rule 9 were *ultra vires* in that they did not regulate "practice and procedure".

The Court of Appeal reversing the judge had referred to the "clear and well established principle of law that, with a few specific and limited exceptions, every person is a competent witness and that, again with a few specific and limited exceptions, every competent witness is a compellable witness".

In their opinion, paragraphs (2) and (3) of rule 9 constituted a departure from the general law relating to the compellability of witnesses, which applied to coroners as to other courts. In so doing, they purported to change substantive law and did not merely regulate practice or procedure. Accordingly, they were *ultra vires* the rule-making authority.

The court had further held that they were *ultra vires* as being inconsistent with section 17(1) of the 1959 Act.

In considering the question in the appeal, it was important to bear in mind that a coroner's process was an inquisitorial process: see *R v South London Coroner, Ex parte Thompson* (1982) 1 WLR 1033 and *In re Marshall* (1984) 8 F.T.R. 11.

If, however, any such practice had existed (founded perhaps on the proposition that an accused person was not bound to give evidence at his trial, and therefore that it would be oppressive to place a person who was suspected of causing a person's death, even more one who was likely to be charged with his death, in the position where he had to have resort to the privilege against self-incrimination at a coroner's inquest, or alternatively on the proposition that the witness's evidence was a matter for consideration by the criminal courts, to which the coroner's inquest had to defer), his Lordship would not have hesitated to describe it as a rule of practice or procedure as opposed to a rule of substantive law.

It was true that the effect of such a practice would be that the coroner's power to compel a witness to give evidence at an inquest would be to that extent inhibited, but here there would be no question of depriving a party to civil litigation of a substantive right, nor would there be any question of creating a new category of privilege, or of expanding an existing privilege, as a matter of general law.

There would simply be a rule of practice or procedure in coroners' inquests that had the effect that at such inquests certain persons were not to be put in a position where they were compelled to have resort to the privilege against self-incrimination.

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For the like reasons, rule 9(2), and the accompanying rule 9(3), were, in his Lordship's opinion, no more than rules of practice or procedure, applicable in coroners' inquests in Northern Ireland.

True it was that, under rule 7(1), any properly interested person was entitled to examine any witness at an inquest; not only, however, that rule presupposed that the witness in question was a witness at the inquest, but it had to be read subject to rule 9, which formed part of the same body of rules.

The Court of Appeal had further held that paragraphs (2) and (3) of rule 9 were *ultra vires* as purporting to override section 17(1) of the 1959 Act.

However, all that section 17(1) did was to confer on the coroner power to issue summonses for witnesses whom he thought necessary to attend the inquest.

For the reasons that his Lordship had given, he could not see that the mere fact that paragraphs (2) and (3) of rule 9 imposed a restriction on the power with regard to certain categories of persons prevented those paragraphs from regulating practice or procedure.

For those reasons, substantially the same as those of the judge, his Lordship would allow the appeal.

Lord Keith, Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner and Lord Jauncey agreed.

Home Secretary acted unlawfully in political asylum case

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Yassin and Others
Before Mr Justice Schiemann (Judgment March 8)

The Home Secretary acted unlawfully in directing the removal to a third country of a person, with a ticket to that country but seeking political asylum in the United Kingdom, where he had no cause being that the refugee would be admitted to that country.

Mr Justice Schiemann so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing applications for judicial review by six applicants against the decisions of the Home Secretary on January 30, 1990 not to consider their applications for political asylum and to direct their removal from the United Kingdom to Brazil.

Paragraph 8 of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971 provides: "(1) Where a person arriving in the United Kingdom is refused leave to enter, an immigration officer may ... (c) give ... directions ... requiring ... his removal from the United Kingdom ... to a country or territory to which there is reason to believe that he will be admitted."

Article 31 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951 (and 1967) provides: "(1) The contracting states shall not impose penalties, on account of their illegal entry or presence, on refugees who, coming directly from a territory where their life or freedom was threatened in the sense of article 1, enter or are present in that territory without authorization, provided they present themselves without delay to the authorities and show good cause for their illegal entry or presence."

Mr Nicholas Blake for the applicants; Mr Guy Sankey for the Home Secretary.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that each of the applicants had obtained from the Brazilian Embassy in Beirut a tourist visa to enter Brazil and held return tickets there from Lebanon.

They arrived at Gatwick Airport via Cyprus. They had not applied for, still less obtained, United Kingdom visas. Nevertheless, they immediately claimed political asylum.

The Home Secretary decided not to consider their applications for asylum. That decision was based on the fact that the applicants had visas for admission to Brazil and held tickets for travel to that country, had no connection with the United Kingdom and it was reasonable to expect them to apply for asylum in Brazil.

The applicants contended that they obtained the Brazilian visas by deception from the authorities in Beirut, that they never intended to go to Brazil, that they had no connection with Brazil and that if that had been the truth to the Brazilian authorities about how they obtained the visas, those visas would be invalidated and the Brazilian authorities would send them back to the United Kingdom as the first safe country they reached after leaving Lebanon.

It was common ground that Cyprus could be ignored and that there was no risk of Brazil sending them back to Lebanon.

His Lordship said that this was the first case in which the Home Office had refused to consider an application for asylum from persons who were in the United Kingdom on the basis that they arrived in transit to another country.

Usually the Home Office found itself in the position that the United Kingdom was the last port of call.

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Court should have allowed statement taken by police inspector in judge's drug smuggling trial

Regina v Iqbal
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Ward (Judgment March 7)

A civil judge of the first class in Lahore argued that the statement taken by a police inspector in the course of an investigation into the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on importation of a controlled drug.

The Court of Appeal held that the statement was admissible, as evidence of any fact stated therein ... if ... (a) the document ... forms part of a record compiled by a person ... acting under a duty ... who had, or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with ...

Paragraph 2 in Part I of Schedule 2 to the 1984 Act, which supplements section 68, provides: "Where (a) a document setting out the evidence which a person could be expected to give as a witness has been prepared for the purpose of any pending or contemplated proceedings ... (b) it falls within subsection (1) of section

68 ... a statement contained in it shall not be given in evidence ... without the leave of the court, and the court shall not give leave unless it is of the opinion that the statement was made by a person who had, or may reasonably be supposed to have had, personal knowledge of the matters dealt with ..."

Paragraph 7 provides: "In estimating the weight, if any, to be attached to the statement ... regard shall be had to all the circumstances from which any and every relevant fact may be drawn as to the accuracy or otherwise of the statement and, in particular - (a) to the question whether or not the person who supplied the information from which the statement was derived ... did so contemporaneously with the occurrence or existence of the facts dealt with in the information ..."

Mr Paul Purnell, QC, appeared for the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Austin Issard-Davies for the Crown.

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Simon Barnes tries to discover the secret of the McLaren team's much envied domination

Dennis in pursuit of excellence

JULIAN HERRBERT

When the Michelin-gelo Pletch was vandalized, Salvador Dali struggled and asked, what did we expect? Great art has always inspired great passions.

Great success of any kind excites great passions, often as destructive as those that animated the mad axeman of St Peter's. This is as true on the infinitely trivial stage of sport as it is anywhere else.

Sport is supposed to be about the pursuit of excellence: at times it seems that sport's purpose is to create opportunities for the excellent to raise themselves far enough above the parapet to be shot down. One thinks of that odd quarry, Oystre Bay, of course: also of such contrary and often self-destructive people as Ian Botham and Geoff Boycott.

In motor racing, if you seek excellence, you go to McLaren. And you find a company that has been the subject of concerted attack from, it seems, the entire sport of Formula One motor racing. Mostly, these attacks have been aimed at the world's fastest driver, Ayrton Senna.

McLaren have been the team no one can keep up with. After 15 wins from 16 races in 1988, they won 10 and both the drivers' and constructors' championships again last season. Quentin Crisp said: "Never try to keep up with the Joneses. It's much cheaper to drag them down to your level." Perhaps that is what has been behind such things as the disqualification of Senna after winning the Japanese Grand Prix last season and the winter-long row about whether he would be allowed to compete at all this year.

The man in charge at McLaren is Ron Dennis. With four of the last six constructors' titles, he is at the pinnacle of his sport. But he is an oddly deceptive man. You would walk by him in the street a dozen times, in the pit lane you would ask him to point out the team boss of McLaren. His manner is extremely ordinary: one of the most deceptive fronts in sport, quite clearly, yet his is not a mask assumed for his own purposes.

"The philosophy here is that we try to do all that we can to inspire everybody who works for the company to do his part, to make his contribution to our common objective. This is, winning, winning each and every race. Everything that detracts from this aim detracts from it."

The secret of McLaren is that there is no secret. Boring really: they are just very, very good and very, very meticulous. Most Formula One workshops look clean enough to eat off: the McLaren workshop looks clean enough for the performance of a triple bypass operation.

All teams plan ahead: McLaren simply plan longer and more clearly. Some say that the 1989 success was planned eight and more years back. Dennis says he sees plans for the distant future as fluid, slowly solidifying as they approach in time. Dennis is not charismatic and inspirational: he seems, instead, almost infinitely capable. And he runs what a colleague described to me as the most professional organization in any sport anywhere in the world.

"Attention to detail, a commitment to quality... this adds up. It represents an advantage, and success comes from there. It is more complex than this, of course. And people try to copy you. If they are extremely efficient at this, the best they can ever be is the same as you



The Times sets the scene for the World Championship Formula One season that starts in the United States this weekend

— that means, the same, but with a time delay. Even if they copy you perfectly, you still have an edge, so long as you haven't stood still. Copy-cat engineering is a trait in many grand prix teams, but that will never put you in a competitive situation. You must go your own route. This is not an easy thing to achieve.

"It has always been our policy to leave it quite late to build a new car for the season. That way, we have the maximum amount of benefit from the research and development programme. That makes your overall performance in the year higher, but this doesn't necessarily show right at the start. It is in the new car but it has not been realized."

"We are very confident that certain areas of the new car are better than last year — aerodynamics, gear selection, a few other things — and by Imola [the third race of the season] we should be able to open the gap again, and be as competitive as we have been."

Actually, the McLaren cars have not been competitive at all. They have run away with virtually everything. That is the trouble, in fact. On the rare occasions they have not won, the result has been greeted with howls of delight: this is "good for motor racing".

"Look in other areas of sport," Dennis said. "If any team or individual makes it look easy, then everybody thinks it is easy. It is not. It is actually quite difficult. The more complex the equation, the more difficult it is: and motor racing is very complex indeed. In most sports, success is directly related to personal commitment. But motor racing relies on so many other things."

"And now there is a whole political area in which people are more than happy to see us weakened. I have no objection to being beaten — it inspires me and everyone in the company to succeed next time. But we can't reduce our performance so that others can win."

Dennis came into motor sport as a mechanic, which is rather as if a top racehorse trainer had entered his profession by "doing his two" as a stable lad. "It was a rich man's sport 25 years ago, and the only way for a young individual to get in was to get his hands dirty. I think I progressed reasonably well," Dennis said.

Not bad, I suppose. Dennis runs the McLaren team, owns 40 per cent of the McLaren group, which includes an electronics company, a marketing company, a PR operation (which includes a rival team, Tyrrell, on its client list), and a firm that will produce a McLaren production sports car in two or three years.

"The thing we fear most in motor racing is self-destruction," Dennis said. The tensions between the two McLaren drivers, Senna and Prost, filled newspapers for a year. It



Man at the pinnacle: Dennis amid the hardware that makes McLaren Formula One's most feared force

ended when Prost, winner of the championship in a McLaren last year, stormed off to Ferrari declaring that Senna was given a better car. All very odd.

"It was not a productive environment," Dennis said. "A result of the lack of meaningful competition outside, conflicting personalities within, and my inability to control those personalities." The attacks on Senna from the FISA, the governing body of the sport, and from its autocratic president, Jean-Marie Balestre, have coloured the McLaren team's view of human nature.

"I think democracy will win through in the end, but we're not

going to make Ayrton or anyone else in this company a martyr to the cause. It is all an appalling waste of time, and it deeply hurts me to be associated with anything that has a detrimental effect on the sport."

"But now our game plan is to become more focused — not blinkered — on our objective, not to be distracted by anything that might weaken our ability to succeed. I see no reason why teams should have to go through a period of uncompetitiveness. Uncompetitiveness is the result of bad planning and bad management, not bad luck."

"There is a tremendous naivety about people's perception of what it takes to maintain a position of

success in sport. The tragedy of human beings throughout the world is that they love to build people up and then knock them down. I don't know why there is so much destructive force in human beings and in organizations."

"If everybody worked in a positive manner, everything would be better, life would be better. There is so much energy wasted on things that are quite clearly destructive."

TOMORROW

John Blunsden previews the season and David Miller reports from Phoenix

RACING

Guest finds life at the top an unhappy sham

By Paul Wheeler

Four days before riding Beech Road, the favourite for the Champion Hurdle, Richard Guest is thinking seriously about retiring. Disillusioned by lack of recognition, Guest views Cheltenham with a mixture of relief and dread.

"Everything depends on Beech Road," he said yesterday. "It's make or break. If he gets beaten, my career will probably be a lost cause and you can say goodbye to Richard Guest. The tension is starting to get to me. Frankly, I just can't wait to get there and get it over with."

The partnership with Beech Road, on whom he also won last season's Sandemur Hurdle at Aintree, should be the perfect showcase for the Guest's polished talents. But last year's successes have not boosted his career as he had hoped. This season has produced just six winners.

"Nothing changed after winning the Champion Hurdle. I've given it my best shot but I'm still not getting enough decent rides. It's wearing me down and I'm thoroughly depressed."

This is not the talk of a man hurt into racing by dreams of glamour. Guest, aged 24, is a third-generation jockey from a family steeped in the sport. His uncle is "Iron Man" Joe Guest; his father, formerly a successful Flat jockey, now trains in Newmarket; Sally, his sister, a work rider with Michael Stoute, is married to Paul Eddery. "I've been brought up to expect disappointments in this game but that doesn't make it any easier," he said.

Guest began his career at the age of 11 with Jeremy Hindley in Newmarket, riding out before school and during the holidays. He joined Michael Stoute as a work rider for two years, then spent three years in yards around Europe before moving to Toby Balding's Weyhill stable four years ago. He has made steady progress with a career total of 81 winners.

Even the prospect of teaming up with Bishop's Cleeve in next month's Grand National has done nothing to lighten the gloom. Guest finds himself in the bizarre dilemma of having the icing, but no cake.

Apart from the responsibility of partnering Beech Road, Guest has little else to look forward to next week. His only other booked ride is Ugandan Affairs, for Peter Makin, in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle. "I'm still open to offers," he said.

Guest has tried to pinpoint some of the reasons behind trainers' reluctance to use him. "I think my quiet style of riding counts against me. Trainers think that it's the only way I know how to ride. But that's how Toby likes the horses handled. It doesn't help either if you're not part of the Lambourn circle. They seem to get a lot more publicity."

"I must have driven 40,000 miles before Christmas just to ride out. I tried telephoning trainers for rides, but it didn't do any good. It hardly seems worth trying now. I've been trying to find a good agent. But it's too good being part of a string of jockeys. I need my own man."

However, Balding counsels patience. "Richard has done well winning the Champion in his first season out of his claim. He's in that period where he is waiting for things to take off. Richard is the heir apparent here. In two years he could be riding all my horses."

Guest remains unconvinced. "People will say I'm moaning. I think I'm a good enough rider but I can't motivate myself to bash something around for the sake of it. If my position doesn't change this will be my last season and I'll probably join my brother, Race, as his assistant."

Guest still retains confidence in his abilities and has high hopes for his star rides. Bishop's Cleeve, who won the Greenall Whitley Gold Cup at Haydock last Saturday, "That was a better run than it looked," he said. "His legs were sore after the race, but it turned out to be an infection rather than anything serious, so he's still on for the National. At his level he would have a big chance."

Guest has also ridden Beech Road in his last gallop at Weyhill. "He's going well. He's done everything right and is spot on."

Last time out Beech Road was beaten, conceding a stone, by Vagador at Fontwell. "It turned into a sprint. Vagador still has some Flat-race speed and he just did me for little bit of toe. But we were getting back to him on the line."

But when analysing the big race, Guest looked elsewhere for trouble. "Kribensis is the main danger and Cruising Altitude will also be in there. But we've beaten Kribensis well enough before. My only worry would be the ground, if it came up too firm."

"It will be a battle all right, but between the two of them for second and third. I'll be out in front."



Richard Guest: scoured by lack of recognition

Selectivity key to future SIS policy

By Dick Hinder

Since its inaugural live-picture showing of Cheltenham on May 5 1987, Satellite Information Services has revolutionized coverage of racing in betting shops. Presently boasting over 11,200 customers world-wide (5,383 in the United Kingdom) and 174 private subscribers, SIS, far from being complacent, is closely scrutinizing the balance of its coverage for future policy, aided by a comprehensive survey recently completed by research group KSGB.

Tony Ellis, the racing director of SIS, said: "It is the end of the honeymoon period, and we regard this survey as a starting point in developing future policy."

Ellis said: "SIS took a conscious decision from January to March 1990 to cover all the all-weather meetings as additions to normal coverage. Of particular concern to us is the suggestion of over-saturation in our coverage, possibly resulting from trying to maintain coverage of virtually all fixtures."

Looking at the options, Ellis said: "The selection of two meetings for televised coverage is a fairly straightforward matter, but when a third meeting is included the issue becomes more contentious. Problems arise when a turf meeting is not televised, but all-weather is. Many forget the contingency nature of all-weather coverage and the fact that it is in addition to the two turf fixtures we would have otherwise televised."

Admitting that the particularly mild weather this winter has not helped in the dilemma, Ellis reported: "The survey has shown that there is a clear preference for turf meetings and all-weather, and Hong Kong coverage may well be used in future as a back-up."

One firm option open to SIS

Channel 4 hits BSB review

Channel 4 will not allow any of its footage to be used on the SIS-organised night racing programme, it has been announced by British Satellite Broadcasting from March 27 (Dick Hinder writes).

Channel 4 reasons it has an exclusive deal with racecourses, and that showing its coverage on a satellite programme would detract from its own advertising revenue. However, BBC has been less stringent, only applying a 24-hour embargo for Royal Ascot when it provides its own slightly revised of the big meeting.

is to cover all-weather at short notice with only some all-weather fixtures in the scheduled coverage. A permanent vision link is being installed between SIS studios and Lingfield, which will allow instant access to pictures in the event of racing elsewhere being cancelled. Also mobile links, which should also be able to reach Southwell at short notice.

From the survey report, interruptions to commentators on televised meetings have not been well received and are to be minimized. Ellis stated that in future SIS will limit to five the total number of events covered in an afternoon to include at least three televised meetings. When there are five or more horse races, there will be no race-by-race coverage of greyhounds.

But with punters wanting an ideal average time gap of seven minutes between bets, they are not going to be spoilt for choice.

Strike call Bell ban is a minority five years

Corals, the bookmakers, yesterday claimed that only 373 of its staff, out of a workforce of over 5,000, had voted in favour of strike action on three specified days over the next month.

"Less than 8 per cent want to strike," Corals spokesman Malcolm Palmer said yesterday. "Their view is clearly far from representative and we are hoping that they will reconsider in the light of these figures."

The ACTS, a branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, has called for a strike on Coral Golden Hurdle Final day at Cheltenham next Wednesday, and on Lincoln Handicap and Grand National days.

Ladbrokes profiles, page 22

Margaret Bell, the former Hawick trainer, was yesterday banned from racing for five years by the Jockey Club disciplinary committee under the rule which covers "causing serious damage to the interests of racing". The decision was taken in Miss Bell's absence.

The committee found Miss Bell to have been involved in the mistreatment of Ivy, a three-year-old bay filly, on her premises.

Miss Bell's father, Harry, was disqualified for 10 years after being convicted of cruelty to the filly in 1988. He was charged with causing unnecessary suffering by towing her behind a handover and beating her with a stick.

RUGBY UNION: THREE HOME UNIONS PREPARE TO STAND IN THE WAY OF REWARDING PLAYERS FOR THEIR ENDEAVOURS

Last year profit is NZ record

Wellington (AFP) — The New Zealand Rugby Football Union showed a record surplus of NZ\$11.5 million (about £410,700) in 1989, Russ Thomas, the chairman, said yesterday. The figure was up from the 1988 figure of NZ\$800,000 and a 1987 surplus of just NZ\$456.

On overseas tours, the visit of Argentina resulted in a deficit of NZ\$118,676. It was offset by a profit of NZ\$325,247 from the tour to France a month earlier. The surplus from the one-off Bledisloe Cup match between Australia and New Zealand at Auckland in August was NZ\$186,903.

Wellington, Mike Moore, the New Zealand minister for foreign affairs and trade, has criticized Murray Pearce, the former New Zealand international, for deciding to play in South Africa this year (AP reports).

Moore reiterated the opposition of the New Zealand Government to sporting ties with South Africa. "I have no doubt that Pearce is well aware of the Government's position," he said.

Pearce, a former All Black lock, retired from international competition last month, plans to fly from his Wellington home to Durban today. He will play for the Durban Collegians club, and for the Natal provincial team in the Currie Cup.

Professional approach to amateurism

Attitudes and circumstances change, but from what we can gather, the regulations as to amateurism in some eyes, to be immutable. It may be inferred from some corners that they are written in tablets of stone: England, Scotland and Ireland are set to reject Sir Ewart Bell's recommendations and so deny the two-thirds majority needed for change.

England are the prime movers. Are they, then, likely to bring their own suggestions to modify the existing regulations, or will they simply throw out the recommendations lock, stock, and barrel? Cards are being held close to the chest. What they would like the game to be in the future must be their guiding light, but in making their judgement, is it the past that will play the most prominent role?

For those who wish to preserve the amateur ideal as it presently exists, and which has been inherited from some supposed golden age, it would appear that the present regulations from this great past in rugby football, but who are no longer with us, have been called to the defence of the cause.

The response can be a negative one. If the amateur regulations were to be changed in any way, so an argument constantly



Gerald Davies

put forward goes, so-and-so (names might cause embarrassment to those still living) would turn in his grave. But, as someone who has been closely involved with the debate from the inside (and again names do not wish to be dropped, so delicate the issue is), I argue, it is not with those no longer with us the International Rugby Football Board should be concerned, but with the living.

Perhaps someone would care to resurrect the name of Crawford Findlay, a Scots referee at the beginning of the century. He had apparently something of a bee in his bonnet about Welsh rugby of the time, and the authors of the book *Findlay of Praise* said that Findlay did not seem to appreciate the finer points of the Welsh game, "nor perhaps its structure, for he had performed the school teacher."

The authors of the book *Findlay of Praise* said that Findlay did not seem to appreciate the finer points of the Welsh game, "nor perhaps its structure, for he had performed the school teacher." Hys Gabe, at a dinner in 1903, that he was surprised that Wales selected miners, steelworkers, and policemen for their international teams, and suggested that these players should join the Northern Union.

Cowley's magnificent season ended with an uneasy 14-13 victory over Warral Grammar School, but their reputation goes before them. Sides raise their game dramatically to try to beat Cowley, whose only loss this winter was a 13-12 defeat by Arnold.

Their style of play, which reflects great credit on their coach, Clive Griffiths, the former Llanelli, Wales and rugby league player, is a joy to behold and their record of 19 wins from 20 games, with 690 points scored and just 127 conceded, needs no gloss. Merthyrton Castle report has-

The social distinctions that were apparent in England and Scotland did not apply to rugby in Wales. Even in Ireland, it seems, there were "observations" which provoked immediate resentment and which were that the Welsh internationalists were able to get into better condition... being workmen."

There were class divisions which they clearly wished the amateur structure to uphold. So that the code of conduct of what an amateur rugby player should be, has its roots in an attitude which would be thought of as obnoxious these days.

Findlay might be echoing the feelings of his day, but someone would seem to think if he suggested as much today, the history of what is termed the amateur ethos may well have been a cavalier and clean-cut sort of thing. But it was not for everybody. They might even have preferred an exclusivity clause written in.

If Sir Ewart Bell's recommendations were to succeed, it is argued, another division would be created. That between the committee man, say, who does the work voluntarily, and the player who might get his financial reward from book royalties, or whatever, though such rules were usually applied to the voluntary man. But if the admin-

istrator, however commendable his efforts are, evaluates his contribution in the same way as the performer, then he ought really to think again. In its most basic form, sport could exist without him.

Yet, several clubs in England are employing directors of rugby. Voluntary administrators have agreed this paid official. The Rugby Football Union itself seemingly approves this kind of thing. Yet they are set against players receiving what is still referred to "reward for communication" — writing books, media work, and personal appearances. The fact is that they might choose to do these things in their own free time. What interest should there be really for the IRFB?

There is an hypocrisy at the heart of all this. It is such directors of coaching who, if they followed their brief in accomplishing their objectives and so ensured achievement, would demand more and more of the players' time. The club director of coaching gets £22,000 and a car. The international player is not even allowed, under present restrictions, to conduct a simple radio interview for the tiniest of fees. This is ludicrous.

It Brian Williams, a farmer

and Welsh international, goes on any tour less than 21 days, he cannot be reimbursed for any financial disadvantage to him. He has to pay a man to look after his farm whilst he is away, but it is something he simply cannot afford considering his narrow margins of his operation.

The demands even of home internationalists can be a burden. Before he got into the Welsh team, Williams was asked, as others were, to attend a Welsh training camp for six days in Portugal. It is a requirement for selection. With such demands, players surely cannot any more be defined as amateurs.

Generally, the amateur regulations are flawed. Players do make personal appearances. They do get paid for after-dinner speaking. They do appear in advertisements, and they do appear on television and write newspaper copy, and receive a fee. Why persist with such a charade?

The very real worry should be, if there is no agreement at the IRFB meeting at the end of this month, and the two-thirds majority not achieved, how the minority who do not wish for a change control the majority who do?

Smith returns after injury

Steve Smith, the Ballymena international hooker, is returning to playing a match for the first time since his rib cartilage injury against England at Twickenham in January (George Ace writes). He is in the team that meets Coleraine in the first round of the Ulster Senior Challenge Cup at Eton Park.

The pick of the first-round ties tomorrow appears to be between Malone, for whom the international hooker, John McDonald, is doubtful, and Dungannon, at Gibson Park.

There was little to choose between the teams when they met in a league game.

sevens tournament while the Mount St Mary's invitation sevens was won by the home school, who beat Pocklington 16-6 in the final.

King's Macledfield rounded off a good season, in which they had 15 wins and a draw from 21 games, with a 24-0 win against Poynton High School and victory in the Cheshire 15-a-side tournament, beating Sale Grammar School 30-0 in the final.

The best record of any school team may well be held by Warwick School's under-12s. They won their 11 games without conceding a point and scored 432.

Millfield beat Christ College Brecon 12-10 in the final of the Hereford Cathedral Marches

Doncaster Beech Road eases fit to race

continue the good work by beating Abbots View in the first division of the Lila Novices' Hurdle.

The other division can go to Oliver Sherwood's recent Irish import Tildarg, who won bumper at Naas in November

There are 23 five-day acceptors for the Champion with the principals standing the ground. The size of the likelihood field reflects current trends. There were 21 runners who

At Carlisle, I like the look of Jimmy Fitzgerald's chance of landing a treble with Otterburn House (2.0). See You There (4.30) and Hallborough (5.0). Otterburn House, my selection for the McEwan Best Scotch Top Of The North.

Corals have also opened a book on the leading jockey at the festival. Peter Scudamore is a 15-8 favourite with Richard Dunwoody, who will ride Desert Orchid and Kribensis, next best.

Novices hurdle, met two useful horses in Remittance Man and Empire Blue at Doncaster last time, while See You There, my choice for the Cumbrian Hotel Handicap Chase, was not disgraced at Catterick last time when runner-up to The Wilk.

WATERFOOD CRYSTAL CHAMPION
HURDLE (Championship race: 248,371
2m) (28 five-day acceptors) Bank View
Beach Road, Cruising Albion; Deeds
Sensation; Dis Train; Don Valentino
Elementary; Edgar; Island Set; Jimmy Jack
Kribenka; Mole Board; Morley Street
Nomadic Way; Past Glories; Persen Style
Redundant Pal; See You There; Space
Fair; Sudden Victory; Vagador; Valroian
Victory Di Brav

1. Ask Eye (A)
Mackay William (88)
Morpion (18-1) 19
Whites. Tone: 24.80.

CRICKET

England A home and dry before rainstorms arrive

From Richard Streeton, Harare

Attacking bowling by Watkin and Atherton, in their different styles, brought England a comfortable victory by 10 wickets, with two hours 40 minutes to spare, in the first international match here yesterday. Zimbabwe's last seven batsmen again failed to do themselves justice and England were left to make only 43 to win. Shortly after the game finished a series of heavy rainstorms swept across the city.

For virtually the first time on the tour, Watkin bowled with the hostility and accuracy which marked his performance last summer when he carried the Glamorgan attack almost single-handed. Watkin dismissed both Houghton and Flower, the two batsmen most likely to prolong the Zimbabwe innings. Atherton came on just before lunch and brought the innings to a conclusion when he took three wickets in nine balls without cost.

Brander, the Zimbabwe fast bowler, who has an injured back, was unable to bowl as Darren Bicknell and Stephenson took England to their target with a succession of firm strokes. Stephenson when night gave a hard chance to short leg off Diers and nearly played on against Traicos just before the end. Otherwise, there was little encouragement for Zimbabwe. The second international in the three-match

series starts in Bulawayo tomorrow. Mark Nicholas, the England captain, said that he thought Zimbabwe had lacked confidence. "I do not think they know how they are going to win a five-day game. I got the impression they found it difficult to bat a long time. Compared with when I was here before they are certainly not playing at their best."

"I also thought we played very well at important stages and obviously we recovered in fine manner from a bad first day. It reflects well on this side's mental and physical reactions."

Houghton, the Zimbabwe captain, said his side had lost the match on the second morning. "We laid a pretty good platform at 253 for three and should have gone on to reach 400 or 450. In the second innings it was disappointing that people had got out after getting a sight of the ball."

"Our players have got to learn that you can play positive cricket but at the same time you must still play as tightly as possible. It is not something we can solve by talking about it."

Zimbabwe, resuming their second innings at 64 for three, were all out for 118. In the first two overs Iglesides had Traicos, the nightwatchman, held at second slip before Watkin had Houghton taken at first slip against a ball which

bounced more than most.

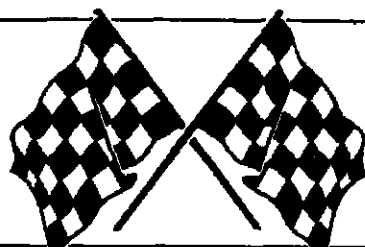
Patterson defended solidly, however, and Arnott, who had his right index finger broken in the first hour on Saturday, also resisted bravely later for 65 minutes. Sometimes he removed his bottom hand from the bat as he played his strokes but generally he did not seem too uncomfortable.

Afford dismissed Brander before Atherton's closing thrust. In quick succession the vice captain, described by Nicholas as a magician, had Patterson leg before to a googly as he played back; Arnott was held at silly point from a bat and pad catch; and Diers edged a leg break to the wicketkeeper.

Zimbabwe: First Innings 280 (D L Houghton 106, A H Shah 59). Second Innings 118 (D L Houghton 44, A H Shah 23).

England: First Innings 280 (D L Houghton 106, A H Shah 59). Second Innings 118 (D L Houghton 44, A H Shah 23).

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TOMORROW'S
SPORT

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Cheltenham
The team behind
Desert Orchid's
Gold Cup defence



FA Cup
Ray Wilkins plots
the downfall
of Liverpool

Test under threat as rain may stay for a long innings

From Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent
Georgetown, Guyana

The familiar face of Georgetown was back in evidence yesterday, rain teeming from leaden skies and casting doubt on the prospect of the second Test match beginning on time tomorrow.

As is often the case in this equatorial land, it rained through the early hours of the morning and only relented with the implicit promise of returning to unfinished business later in the day. It is a polished routine, and those who have witnessed it before — such as the last two England touring teams in 1974 and 1981, or the Indians of 12 months ago — will testify that, when the rain starts here, it tends to enjoy a lengthy innings.

Last year's Test in Georgetown was halted by just such a downpour after two fine days. There was no chance of a resumption as, in a city below sea level, drainage is a major problem and Bourda, although circled by trenches, holds water like a bath with no plug hole. By yesterday lunch-time, it was a swamp.

If England, in their unaccustomed position of leading West Indies 1-0, can view the weather with more ambivalence than usual, a rain-soaked Test would be a sad loss for a country which, socially and economically, has precious little to sustain it.

Cook criticizes TCCB

Geoff Cook, chairman of the Cricketers' Association, yesterday criticized the decision by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) to ignore the pleas of county captains and reject a switch to four-day championship cricket.

He said there was "an avalanche" of support among professionals for ending the three-day game. But on Wednesday night the TCCB voted 14-4 against the changes.

"There will be a lot of disappointment about the decision," Cook, the Northamptonshire opening batsman, said. "The most disturbing factor is the captains' meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of four-day cricket and their opinion has been ignored."

What was once a fine city, with elegant architecture and rich parkland, is now desperately decayed. Local papers speak of little but the urgent need for further financial aid. Roads are in poor repair, water and food supplies are precarious, communications primitive. Guyana's airline is down to one plane and that is not only grounded but apparently mislaid.

The importance of retaining cricket, in a country not automatically associated with the Caribbean and where even the Test sponsors, Cable and Wireless, would prefer not to come, was vividly illustrated on Wednesday. Georgetown's population is 200,000, more than 10 per cent were at Bourda for the one-day international, many occupying improbable perches in trees — "the birdmen" as they like to be called.

If that one-sided game has any bearing on what is scheduled to follow tomorrow, it can only be to the advantage of West Indies. England performed abjectly, especially with the bat, leaving Micky Stewart, the team manager, to admit: "In the euphoria of the Test victory I did warn that there could be dodgy days ahead, hard days ahead. This was one of them."

David Gower, page 38

The other effect of the match on Wednesday was to stabilize the West Indies side. Hooper and Best, vulnerable figures in the middle order, can hardly be left out now that Best has made a century and Hooper, though still short of runs, has indicated that the neglected dimension of spin bowling may yet be effective, on this pitch and against these England players... always assuming, of course, that the rain stops.

It certainly was, and no one emerged from it with more on his mind than the manager's son, Alec. He failed in the Kingston Test and has since lasted a total of three balls in two limited-overs games. Stewart senior has admirably avoided any suggestion of nepotism, but now he felt obliged to leap to his son's defence. "Our No. 3 getting two successive ducks is the same as someone 'bagging a pair' in a Test and we are not in the business of dropping anyone for one poor Test."

This leaves little room to doubt that Stewart will retain his place when the Test team is announced later today, but the situation must at least be giving poor Rob Bailey reason to hope that he might get another innings before the tour ends.

Bailey has not batted, under match conditions, for more than a month. His first tour has come to such an apparent dead-end that no one would be surprised to see him turn up among the other former players on the television commentary team. Even yesterday's promised morsel, an over match against Guyana youth in which seven members of the England party were expected to play, was denied by the weather. Stewart, however, now needs a substantial score in this Test if Bailey is to be kept idle any longer.

McLaren dispute runs on

From David Miller Phoenix, Arizona

The dispute between the Marlboro-Honda-McLaren team and Jean-Marie Balestre, the president of international motorsport, is not over. This was confirmed indirectly here yesterday by Ron Dennis, the owner and managing director of McLaren, before the start of Sunday's opening race of the Formula One season.

McLaren may yet seek to challenge the disciplinary and appeal court authority of FISA, the motor racing branch of FIA, in the courts. Dennis said that he could neither confirm nor deny the possibility of legal action, and said that McLaren "would always do what is best for the sport". He was aware, he said, that too deep an involvement in the conflicts of the end of last season would have weakened the team in the preparations for 1990, but "we're stronger than we've ever been."

Moreover, Dennis added that McLaren would not remain passive on issues off the track, believing that the condition of motor racing must move forward. He realized that other Formula One teams were cautious of supporting McLaren's action because of its potential distraction from performance on the track. Yet he said: "Honda were totally supportive [in the dispute] and prepared to follow any route we agreed upon".

Ayrton Senna, hoping to regain the driver's title from Alain Prost, now with Ferrari, appeared relaxed and philosophical. Asked whether he retained any resentment over his treatment by FISA and Balestre, he sat thinking for a full minute before finally saying: "Perhaps my silence speaks for itself." He then elaborated: "The conclusion was not best" he said. "Not for me, the team, the sponsors, the sport or the federation."

Meanwhile, Balestre has issued here a formal statement to the effect that the Formula One championship, and his administration of it, have never been in better shape.

Initiative aims for London to host Olympics
The Labour-controlled Association of London Authorities (ALA) said yesterday that London should aim to host the Olympic Games in a decade's time. As part of an initiative to expand sports, arts and leisure in the capital, the ALA wants additional investment in football grounds, sports fields and play centres.

Richard Sumray, chairman of the ALA's arts committee, said: "The aim should be for London to host the Olympics in the early years of the next century and be the cultural centre of Europe."

Getting in step with the community



The English and Welsh Sports Councils launched a campaign yesterday to encourage school-leavers to continue in physical activity (John Goodbody writes). A three-year sponsorship package with the Midland Bank, worth £1 million, is aimed at 590,000 school-leavers, and 3,150 schools have asked for a free, 20-minute video, 44-page full

colour magazines with regional information on how to get involved in community sport, and discount vouchers to attract their pupils. The video will be shown over the next two months.

Linford Christie, pictured above, left, with Sharron Davies, Duncan Goodhew and Joanne Conway at the launch, said that sport still opened doors that many

academic activities did not. He said that he was directed by teachers to join an athletics club, but some youngsters are not so lucky. Christie added that because Britain was doing so well in international athletics, there was an attitude that the sport did not need anything, but many women athletes, in particular, were lost at the time they left school.

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Rugby tickets at £3,000 a pair

By Alan Lovimer and Owen Jenkins

With the Calcutta Cup rugby union match between Scotland and England just over a week away, £3,000 was the price removed to be offered for a pair of centre stand tickets normally priced at £14 each.

Buyers advertising in newspapers in Scotland are willing to pay £100 to get into Murrayfield, while London-based companies are quoting £200 for a price that can be negotiated upwards considerably. In one Scottish evening newspaper, an advertiser declared a price of £500.

Most of the tickets have been allocated to supporters through rugby clubs, who are urged by the Scottish Rugby Union to keep a strict note of ticket numbers and to whom they were given, in an effort to stop resale at inflated prices. A small percentage of tickets have been sold through several retail outlets in Scotland on a two-per-head basis, resulting in queues forming at 5am on the day of sale. Some of these tickets are being resold for many times their face value.

Bill Hogg, the SRU secretary, reiterating his "no tickets" message earlier this week, said: "Practically all the tickets were sold before the season even started. There may be a few late tickets available if debutante holders decide not to go to the match."

The problem for supporters south of the border is that their allocation is only 4,800, but it is expected that the number of English spectators will exceed that. Scots, too, are still clamouring for tickets, a demand that will make it a bonanza week for the speculators.

Amid the clamour, one advertisement in *The Scotsman* did sound a bit hopeful. Saturday's Wales v Scotland match ended up on the black market at inflated prices or as part of hospitality packages. Although the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) could identify which clubs and individuals were allocated the tickets, it is difficult to trace tickets that are passed from person to person.

Mike Burton, the former England international, charged £249, plus VAT, for a deal that included a £12 stand ticket, a tie, lunch, a meal after the game and a speaker. Denis Evans, the secretary

of the WRU, said: "Three or 'Wanted' tickets. All Scotland v England tickets." Others, it seems, will be satisfied with just one.

In Wales, they are trying to track down how tickets for last four hundred tickets are involved. I cannot say which club is involved because I am waiting to hear from them. One way around it could be to form an alternative function similar to the one he [Burton] organizes and increasing our own hospitality events — £286 is pretty easily undercut. People have told me of various ways he gets his tickets. Clubs can be the innocent parties in these matters and provide tickets to their members in good faith.

"What he does is not illegal and there is nothing we can do about it at the moment."

Warning over television sell-off plan

By Richard Evans and Richard Ford

Leading sports events such as the Wimbledon tennis championships and the FA Cup final will not be screened on BBC or ITV within the next few years, broadcasters warned last night after MPs backed a controversial Government plan to sell off television coverage to the highest bidder.

Until now, BBC and ITV have been effectively guaranteed the right to screen 10 "listed" events, but MPs examining the Broadcasting Bill voted 15-7 yesterday in favour of allowing the right to cover such prestige occasions to be auctioned off.

The radical change means that Sky Television, British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) or any other television company will be able to buy exclusive coverage of important sports events — and the majority of viewers will be denied access to Britain's premier sporting coverage.

The 10 "listed" events are the Commonwealth Games, when staged in the UK, Eng-

land cricket matches, the Derby, World Cup football finals, the FA Cup final, the Grand National, the Olympic Games, the Boat Race, Wimbledon tennis and the Scottish FA Cup final.

David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting, told MPs that sports bodies and authorities would not want to sell exclusive rights to satellite stations until they were a big force in broadcasting and received in many more homes.

But Robin Corbett, the shadow broadcasting minister, warned that millions of viewers faced being deprived of watching the nation's leading sporting events. "National sporting events should, as a right, be available on the national network."

Alistair Darling, an opposition home affairs spokesman, warned that Parliament was being asked to allow a monopoly to be created which would help Sky Television and BSB. Satellite stations would be willing to bid over the odds to win the exclusive rights of sporting events as they could then exploit the market and induce more people to buy satellite dishes.

The Government also refused to change the Bill to guarantee television news organizations such as ITN access to big sporting occasions.

Strength lies in sport's divisions

By David Pickup

The extracts from Denis Howell's forthcoming book, *Made in Birmingham*, which appeared in *The Times* on February 24, were characteristically compelling. Denis rightly drew attention to the complex inter-relationships between educational policies, tourism earnings, conservation and sport, and he emphasized the worrying erosion of competitive games in schools.

I part company, however, when he states his view about the Sports Council and its alleged "fundamentally flawed" structure.

The Royal Charter does provide the council with a high degree of independence. Were it not so, Denis would not be complaining, paradoxically, about his inability to question the council's decisions in Parliament. He cannot have it both ways.

It is true that, theoretically, the Minister for Sport has considerable influence through his grant-in-aid and his appointment of members. But examples of any Minister pushing the council to act in ways contrary to its own judgment are virtually nonexistent. Indeed, we ourselves have taken issue with the Government, for example, on the level of funding for sport.

Members certainly do not perceive themselves as "part of the managerial concept of government". And to argue that Mary Peters, Michael Parker, Trevor Brooking, Peter Yarranton, Norman Jacobs, Richard Fox, Maggie Hohmann, Ron Ems and Charles Palmer — all international competitors and/or administrators — have "no sense of accountability to sport" is faintly ludicrous.

Sports council no political poodle

More generally, the council has shown little tendency to regard itself as anybody's poodle. On the contrary, it is deliberately aiming to reduce, proportionately, its reliance on direct Government funding by generating income in its own right, while simultaneously seeking to increase the total resources which can be directed towards sport and recreation.

The claim that "the Central Council of Physical Recreation is the only all-embracing forum for sport in this country" would certainly be disputed by sporting bodies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This is not in any way to disparage the excellent work undertaken by Peter Lawson and his team at the CCPR, much of which, incidentally, is financially supported by the Sports Council. It does, however, indicate that there is no universally recognized and all-embracing United Kingdom forum for sport. But should there be?

Interestingly, the British Olympic Association takes the view that it can be more effective by establishing an arm's-length relationship with the Sports Council.

Similarly, the council's partnerships with local authorities and the private sector in promoting Sport for All campaigns exploit creative qualities that would be unlikely to be generated by a monolithic corporate body.

Need to recognize virtues of plurality

A model for this "loose-fit" but dynamic method of developing the national sporting interest can be seen in the British International Sports Committee on which the CCPR, the BOA, the home country governing body federations and all four United Kingdom Sports Councils are represented. What is emerging is a clearer recognition of shared objectives by the various voluntary bodies and the desire to work separately but in tandem.

We should build on this. Instead of setting up a structure redolent of the corporate fashions of the 1960s, we should recognize the virtues of plurality in sport, as elsewhere in society. Uniformity of purpose certainly, but a search for uniformity of organization might well prove no more than a sterile distraction.

David Pickup is the Director General of the Sports Council.

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Champion goes ahead

The Italian world motor rallying champion, Massimo Biasion, regained the lead for Lancia when the Portuguese rally reached its halfway point, about 200 miles north of Lisbon, yesterday evening.

Although, for much of the day, he played second fiddle to the Toyota Celica of Carlos Sainz, from Spain, he eventually moved ahead on the final 11-mile gravel stage, when Sainz chose the wrong type of tyre.

Joughin quits

Steve Joughin, twice the British professional road cycling champion and a former national junior champion, confirmed yesterday that he has retired from competition unless he finds a sponsor soon.

Pugh injured

The Welsh tight-head prop forward, Jeremy Pugh, has been ruled out of the five nations' championship wooden- spoon decider against Ireland, in Dublin on March 24, after undergoing an exploratory knee operation.

Hugh Williams-Jones, of the South Wales Police, is expected to replace him.

Games money

The Government is to contribute £6,000 towards the costs of the British Transplant Games, to be held in Glasgow this summer.

American visit
A team from the United States is to take part in the Overoom international grand prix on April 8, in the Beaconsfield-Amersham area. It will be the first time an American amateur team has competed in a single-day road race in the United Kingdom, apart from world championships.

Roche leads

Marseilles (AFP) — Stephen Roche, of Ireland, retained the lead in the Paris-Nice cycle race yesterday after a 179km ride from Vergèze, finishing comfortably in the pack behind the day's stage winner, Adriano Baffi, of Italy.

Roche comfortable

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